Hafa Adai!

Key witness of CW-1 scam case defendant unable to enter NMI. PAGE 6
Man allegedly strangled, slapped girlfriend. PAGE 7

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CW bill goes to White House

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In a special *pro forma* session on Friday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) bill aimed at the problem caused by Chinese construction workers using up CW-1 permits in 2016 and 2017. **See CW on Page 4**

VETERANS CHOICE
Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) discusses the Veteran's Choice program with a war veteran during the Veterans Choice Workshop last Thursday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.
KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

See story on Page 2

Devoutly Catholic Guam celebrates Holy Mass amid North Korea threat

By GRACE GARCES BORDALLO and TASSANEE VEJPONGSA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TUMON, Guam (AP)—Across Guam—where nearly everyone is Roman Catholic—priests prayed for peace as residents of the U.S. Pacific island territory faced a missile threat from North Korea.

Archbishop Michael Byrnes instructed priests in Guam's 26 churches to offer prayers for peace between the two nations and courage for military forces on the island. He asked

See DEVOUTLY on Page 4

North Korea plans Guam strike

North Korea has announced plans to launch four ballistic missiles toward the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam, a major military hub and home to U.S. bombers.

Land area: 217 square miles

Population: 161,000 (2016 est.)

Political status: Self-governing, organized, unincorporated territory of the United States with one legislative house

• US military bases cover about a quarter of the island. About 7,000 personnel are based there

Source: britannica.com, BBC, AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

AS N. KOREA CONTINUES THREATS VS GUAM

Torres: Go on with your daily lives

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Despite the war of words between President Donald J. Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said he is "not concerned" that the tirade may escalate into a shooting war since there is no "imminent threat."

» Governor more concerned with Condition 3 typhoon

In fact, Torres is more concerned with a Condition

See TORRES on Page 4

Child molester gets 15-yr imprisonment

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A 36-year-old sex offender, who has several prior convictions, including involuntary manslaughter, was slapped on Friday with a sentence of 15 years in prison for sexually abusing a 10-year-old boy in Chalan Kanoa.

Steven Romie Aguon pleaded guilty to sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree and was sentenced to 15 years in prison—the maximum for the offense—without the possibility of parole, with credit for time served

See CHILD on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
The experience of working in eight of TanHoldings Corp.'s businesses was a big help.
PAGE 13

LOCAL
Great Harvest Bread Co opened its first store in the CNMI last Thursday.
PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
Bruno Mars is donating $1 million to aid those affected by the Flint water crisis.
PAGE 21

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

From left, Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero, Board of Education vice chair Janice A. Tenorio, associate commissioner Glenn Muna, and Head Start/Early Head Start program director Lathania Santos last Aug. 11, 2017, at the Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

BEA CABRERA

Head Start and Early Head Start undergo training

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

As part of preparations for the start of the new school year in public schools this Aug. 16, officials and teachers of the Head Start and Early Head Start Child Care program went through a professional development training last Friday at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The weeklong training focused mostly on the procurement process and its procedures.

"As part of our preparations, we undergo professional development training prior to school opening," said Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero. "This is a calendared event and different topics are discussed."

Head Start is a federally funded pre-school program that provides comprehensive services to eligible children and families on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, while Early Head Start-Child Care Program intends to be of service to low income families with infants and toddlers to help them have access to a strong foundation in education.

Also in attendance on Friday was Board of Education vice chair Janice A. Tenorio, who said, "Head Start and Early Head Start deals with a lot of procurement processes in their programs, especially since they work with all public schools, administrative offices and external offices."

The professional development training included other offices that work closely with the Head Start and Early Head Start program.

"Offices such as finance, the commissioner's office, office of pupil transportation, administration offices were invited to attend the training as well," Deleon Guerrero said.

Tenorio said, "This training is in line with the commissioner's vision of transparency and empowerment. Transparency because she wants everyone involved and working together. And empowerment, for everyone to have confidence in the work that they do. This goes for everybody, from the key management to the teachers that are involved with the Head Start and Early Head start program."

Kilili pushes for premium healthcare for veterans

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Camacho Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) is pushing for premium healthcare for war veterans in the CNMI by having them enrolled in what is called the "Veterans Choice Program."

The program, provided by the TriWest Health Care Alliance, finally reached the CNMI last week, with a workshop held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe to introduce this most recent health care program in the Commonwealth that specializes in the health care of war veterans.

According to Karl S. Kiyokawa, the program was first established in Hawaii before expanding to the Pacific. This was the first time the program was discussed face to face with veterans in the Commonwealth.

Kiyokawa said that Sablan's invitation was the perfect opportunity for him to fully introduce the program to war veterans and to help veterans make the most of their benefits.

"…It's a benefit they earned, it's a benefit that they deserve, and we are here to make it work best for them," said Kiyokawa.

The main purpose for the workshop was to teach veterans how to get in touch with the program through phone or a referral from the local Veterans Affairs physicians.

As a veteran himself, Sablan understands the importance of premium healthcare, especially for older war veterans.

"I've been trying to wrap my brain around the idea of

See KILILI on Next Page

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Docomo, United host Music and Movie Night

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Docomo Pacific and United Airlines linked up for the first One Marianas Music and Movie Night at the Francisco C. Palacios Baseball Field last Saturday night.

Intended to celebrate the launching of Docomo's cable-powered services on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, the event was the first of its kind to be hosted by Docomo Pacific, according to spokesman Kenneth Quintanilla.

Docomo Pacific even flew in the group "Dolls" from Guam to perform. There were also live performances by local artists Goddhy and Demalynn Pagarao. The movie *Beauty and the Beast* was later shown, while free food and Docomo Pacific goods were given away.

Quintanilla said the event was Docomo Pacific's way to give back to the community and a means to celebrate the unity of the Marianas.

"It's our way of saying thank you to the Marianas and it's a celebration of uniting as 'One Marianas' through the launch of our services," said Quintanilla. "It's just our way of saying thank you and showing our appreciation to the Marianas for its support in our journey."

Docomo Pacific recently launched new services in the CNMI, including their internet and cable services on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, as part of its Atisa submarine fiber optic cable system.

"Just Friday, we launched our services on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," Quintanilla said.

He said that Friday night's event is just a part of a bigger project with Atisa.

During the celebration, Docomo Pacific offered free food and beverages to the hundreds in attendance. The Hut, Bubba Gump, and Shirley's Coffee Shop were present during the celebration to distribute free meals to individuals who attended the Music and Movie Night.

Families were also treated to a fireworks show and children were treated to a movie presentation of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

KILILI

From Page 2

how can I get veterans access to medical care. That's very important and TriWest (Veteran's Choice program administrator) is the answer," said Sablan.

Sablan said he personally called David J. McIntyre Jr., chief executive officer and president of Triwest Healthcare Alliance Corp., to come and visit the Marianas and talk more about the project.

Although McIntyre was unable to present the program, he is still thankful that Kiyokawa was able to come to the Marianas.

The Veteran Affairs Office on Saipan decides the eligibility of an individual for the program. Sablan is encouraging more veterans to sign up with the Veteran's Affairs Office, not just to be eligible for the program but also for the establishment of a Veteran's Affairs clinic.

According to Sablan, he has been working on the establishment of a Veterans Affairs clinic on the island for quite some time now but he can only pursue that if there is enough number of veterans here.

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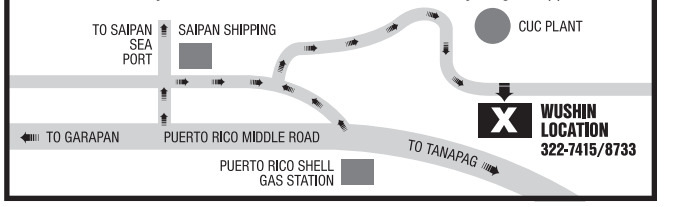

Another $5000 instant lottery Winner!

CONGRATULATIONS to Ms. Santos who won $5,000 instantly playing "10X the Cash" on NMSA's Instant Scratchies $2 game at XO Supermarket.

Ms. Santos was running a lot of errands last week when she stopped by XO Supermarket to get some drinks. She also purchased two of each game ticket. Out of all her tickets, she won a "FREE GAME" and a $3 cash prize. But because Ms. Santos had a very busy day ahead of her, she just redeemed her tickets for two more tickets, placed them in her wallet, and went on to finish up what she needed to get done.

Ms. Santos had forgotten about her tickets until the night of August 08, as she was getting rid of some old receipts in her wallet, she pulled out her tickets. She then scratched them off and was in great disbelief when she saw that she had just won $5,000 instantly. Ms. Santos felt a relief because she needed the extra money for her back to school shopping for her son, also to take care of some bills.

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Manglona, Paulino named to CUC board

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last week appointed two new members to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board, which was swept clean after the governor sacked the board members in early May.

The new members, Miranda V. Manglona and Jovita Paulino representing Rota and Tinian, respectively, were appointed to replace former CUC board members Albert Taitano of Rota and Eric San Nicolas of Tinian.

The newly appointed members must first gain the approval of the Senate before their appointment becomes official.

As of publication, the only CIC board member approved by the Senate is Weston Thomas Deleon Guerrero. Matthew Holley, a lawyer appointed by Torres as well, has yet to be approved by the Senate, but a public hearing for the approval of Holley's appointment is set to take place today, 2pm at the Senate chamber on Capital Hill.

Deleon Guerrero's appointment was approved last July 11, 2017.

The former CUC board, which consisted of former chair Adelina Roberto, Joseph Torres, Ignacio Perez, Albert Taitano, Eric San Nicolas, and David Sablan Jr. were all asked to resign the wake of the Engine 8 procurement fiasco. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Raising the stakes: Why North Korea is talking up Guam

By ERIC TALMADGE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's announcement that it is finalizing a plan to launch four ballistic missiles over Japan toward the island of Guam has touched off a series of fiery threats from President Donald Trump and upped tensions between Pyongyang and Washington to a whole new level.

So are we all headed toward war?

If past precedent is any guide, the answer is no. Though it has been mostly lost as the current round of tough talk keeps escalating, North Korea just a few months ago conducted a similar rehearsal strike on a U.S. military base in Japan. And that missile test led to nary a tweet from Trump.

For sure, if Pyongyang were to go through with its planned launch of missiles toward Guam, it would be an extremely provocative move. But it is also one that the U.S. military has been watching develop for years, with fairly well-defined steps that have led to an ever more complicated and potentially dangerous situation—but not the outbreak of a nuclear war.

A look at what Pyongyang is up to, and how we got here:

SETTING THE STAGE

In March, at around the time of the biggest annual maneuvers between the U.S. and South Korea, the North fired four extended-range Scud missiles into waters off the Japanese coast in what was intended to be a mock attack on Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni.

Iwakuni is one of the main U.S. bases in Japan and was the staging point for F-35 stealth fighters believed to be training for precision strikes on North Korea against Kim Jong Un and his top lieutenants.

The March missile launch was not as bold as the plan for Guam—the North didn't tell the world beforehand and deliberately sent the missiles much farther north than the base itself, an easy tweak. But the move sent a strong message that such an attack would be possible.

The public response from Trump then was muted. Nearly two weeks after the launch, he tweeted, without mentioning the missile test: "North Korea is behaving very badly. They have been 'playing' the United States for years. China has done little to help!"

Pyongyang, possibly emboldened by that and its two successful intercontinental ballistic missile tests in July, appears to be hoping to send an even stronger message for Trump to back off with its Guam plan, or maybe consider direct talks rather than military action.

DEVOUTLY

From Page 1

for prayers for "just resolution of differences, and prudence in both speech and action."

Guam's Catholic faithful attended Sunday Mass after several days of dramatic rhetoric between the two nuclear-armed nations. President Donald Trump threatened swift and forceful retaliation against North Korea, declaring the U.S. military "locked and loaded."

There hasn't been any widespread anxiety among Guam residents, even after Pyongyang vowed to complete a plan to attack waters near the island by mid-August.

Monte Mesa, who is vice-chairman of the Guam Visitors Bureau, said the Mass at Blessed Diego de San Vitores Catholic Church in Tumon was comforting. He said after the crowded Mass the message from the readings and the gospel "tell our people that God is in control of what is happening and if we have faith and believe in God all this rhetoric and war possibility here on Guam will be taken care of by God."

The Rev. Jose Antonio "Lito" P. Abad said during the Mass that he woke up Wednesday morning reading the breaking news on his phone that Guam was a missile target from North Korea. He felt anxious, he told the congregation during his homily, but that saying prayers gave him peace. He asked his parishioners to pray that God will give them strength.

The church is a major influence on the devout island where 85 percent of the population is Catholic. The church is grappling with numerous lawsuits alleging sex abuse in a growing scandal that has rocked the tiny island where Catholicism is deeply woven into the Spanish-influenced culture of about 160,000 people.

The Archdiocese of Agana invited people to a noon rosary prayer rally, where hundreds gathered under an overcast sky at the ruins of the old Spanish government palace in the heart of Hagatna, Guam's capital. Rallies are being held across the world in commemoration of Our Lady of Fatima's appearance to three shepherd children, 100 years ago in Fatima, Portugal. "Praying for peace in our world and conversion of sinners is very much a part of the messages Our Lady imparted to the children in her appearances at Fatima," the archdiocese said in a statement.

Nikky Flores, a member of the Catholic Daughters of America, said the prayers offered during the rally were "totally significant especially because of this threat. We all come together and pray. We really are very hopeful that it will not come," she said of the missile threat.

The Rev. Francis X. Hezel, assistant pastor at Santa Barbara Catholic Church in Dededo, said he hasn't heard of parishioners seeking comfort from the church amid the North Korea threat.

"It's business as usual with this dark cloud hovering over us for sure," he said. "I don't think they'll be trembling with fear."

Hezel noted that Guam is familiar with the threats.

"The people of Guam are used to standing in a perilous position," he said. "That's the peril and the promise of the place."

TORRES

From Page 1

3 typhoon hitting the CNMI than North Korea since "[the government] has no control [over] that."

"On [North Korea's] actions or threats, we [couldn't do anything about it]," he said last Friday, adding that the U.S. has "the best military in the world" and suggests to the community to "just go on with your day-to-day work, spend as much time with your families as much as you can, and live your normal lives."

In addition to there being "no imminent threat," Torres added that the U.S. also has a military presence in Japan.

Multiple news outlets have reported that Japan could "legally intercept" a Guam-bound missile if it is judged to be a threat to Japan.

The Torres administration released a statement last week that Torres has "full faith and trust" in Trump after North Korea released detailed plans to shoot four intercontinental ballistic missiles, referred to as the Hwasong-14, into the waters around Guam by mid-August this year.

The nearest CNMI island to Guam, Rota, is about 47 nautical miles north of Guam.

In the event North Korea attacks Guam, war would most certainly follow. China, being a North Korean ally due to the Sino-North Korean Mutual Aid and Cooperation Friendship Treaty, said through Chinese-state run news outlet that they would remain neutral if North Korea attacks the U.S. first. In the event that the U.S. would strike North Korea first, China would come to its aid.

According to multiple news outlets, China is also starting to review its friendship treaty with North Korea.

CW

From Page 1

Sablan's Northern Marianas Economic Expansion Act now goes to President Trump, who is expected to sign it into law as early as this week.

"Local businesses and the hospital will now be protected from another surge of new, foreign construction workers taking the limited CW-1 permits that are needed for long-term workers in the Marianas," Sablan said.

"The 1,500 or so construction workers, who have been in the Marianas since before October 2015, and the local companies that employ them will not be affected by my bill. They can still renew their CW permits.

"And anyone with a large development will still have access to the unlimited H-2B visas for those temporary construction workers.

"My bill prevents the competition between those two different categories of workers," Sablan said, "and gives our local businesses some protection from big developers."

Sablan's legislation also permanently increases the fee that goes to train U.S. workers to get jobs in the Marianas economy. The fee will now be $200 for each CW-1 permit issued.

To date the Commonwealth has received $10 million in training fees and 1,200 U.S. workers have been added to the labor force. About $3 million remains available to spend, according to testimony by the Government Accountability Office at the April hearing on Sablan's bill.

Originally, the House passed the Northern Marianas Economic Expansion Act with 2,000 additional CW-1 permits to offset the surge of Chinese construction workers. But that number was cut back to 350 after it was revealed at an April hearing held by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee that there were 2,400 local people unemployed in the Marianas.

The rash of labor abuse cases arising at the same time also made many in the U.S. Senate reluctant to allow for any more CW permits.

"There are 306 CW permits expiring in August and September," Sablan reported. "My legislation with 350 extra permits for 2017 should be able to take care of everyone who is expiring.

"And the special set-aside of at least 60 permits for healthcare workers and at least 10 for power plant operators will mean that the hospital can begin to replace the nursing staff lost earlier this year," Sablan added.

"We could not help everyone. But by barring the use of CW-1 permits for new construction workers my bill does make it less likely that this same problem will occur again."

Sablan credits passage of H.R. 339 to the working group in the House and the Senate, Republicans and Democrats, with whom he has formed a trusting relationship during his nine years in office.

"Now that we have taken care of the short-term problem created by the surge of Chinese construction workers, the working group can turn to legislation with a longer-term solution to the need for labor to keep our economy going and to keep the number of local U.S. workers growing." ***(PR)***

CHILD

From Page 1

since Aug. 26, 2016.

He was required to register as a sex offender, submit to counseling, and pay restitution, all court costs and fees.

According to the accusation, Aguon, who was then 36 years old, touched the privates of the boy on Aug. 28, 2016, on Saipan.

The Office of the Attorney General had originally charged him with sex abuse of a minor in the first degree, sex abuse of a minor in the second degree, impermissible contact with minors, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. The charges carry a total maximum sentence of 49 years and six months.

The OAG later amended the charges, this time minus the assault and battery charge. With the change, the charges now carry a total maximum sentence of 48 years and six months.

The OAG again amended the charges last Thursday, this time pushing only the charge of sex abuse of a minor in the second degree, which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years imprisonment.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Glass Jr. represented the government. Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit served as counsel for Aguon.

Police said that, according to the boy's father, his son came home late, having gone biking with Aguon. The father was concerned because he is aware that Aguon was once arrested for sex abuse of a minor. When the father confronted his son, the boy told his father about what happened.

In October 2010, Aguon was sentenced to two years in prison for sexual abuse of a girl.

Two years later, in October 2012, Aguon was slapped with a 24-month prison term for immigration document fraud.

Aguon was also arrested and charged before for, among other cases, sexually abusing girls. He pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and served a prison term for the killing of a Kosraean man in Kannat Tabla in 2001.

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2017 NISSAN TITAN retail price TBA.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-038

Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms to perform mitigation of the CUC power distribution system through the replacement of 374 wood poles to concrete poles in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project entails the replacement of 103 units of 35-foot and 271 units of 40-foot wood poles to concrete poles and the assembly of electrical hardware. The work site is to take place across CUC's power grid.

This project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the CUC and FEMA.

*CUC requires the Project to be completed in **174 calendar days** from date of award of contract.*

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **August 15, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-038, Electric Power Pole Mitigation Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 29, 2017** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 18, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Jr. Electrical Engineer – via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-018

Supply and Delivery of Water and Wastewater Annual Materials

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Water & Wastewater Division Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-17-018, Supply & Delivery of Water & Wastewater Division Annual Materials",*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 06, 2017** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and

Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Prospective Bidders must comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 22, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Geoffrey Ada, CUC Water-Wastewater, Inventory Technician – via email address geoffrey.ada@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

UNTIL USCIS OKS HIS CW-1 VISA

Key witness in CW-1 scam case unable to enter NMI

A key witness of one of the six defendants in a CW-1 scam case is unable to appear personally in federal court, apparently because he is currently in the Philippines and cannot enter the CNMI until his I-129 CW-1 visa is approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Janet H. King, the lawyer for defendant Analyn Nunez, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to allow the video testimony of a key witness, who lives in Bataan, the Philippines.

King said the witness, an employee of TBK Auto Cares & Repair, had departed the CNMI.

King said the witness' testimony at trial is crucial to the defense, that the alien workers from Bangladesh employed by TBK had asked the witness how to marry a "local" and obtain "green cards."

The defense counsel said today's technology would allow the court, counsel, and the jury to observe the witness as he testifies, and for the jury to sufficiently judge the witness' credibility.

The indictment charged Nunez with one count of mail fraud and one count of fraud and misuse of visas and permits.

Meanwhile, in a conference call for the U.S. government and Nunez's co-defendants Muksedur Rahman and Md. Rafiqul Islam on Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy struck down the trial date set for Tuesday.

Kennedy said a new trial date will be set today, Monday.

Rahman and Islam had asked the court to move the trial to a later date until the court has appointed a new interpreter.

Last week, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge John C. Coughenour accepted Kennedy's recommendation to accept the guilty plea of another defendan, Zeaur Rahman Dalu.

Dalu's sentencing will be on Dec. 22, 2017.

According to the U.S. government, integral to the scheme to defraud was the collection of large amounts of money—roughly between $15,000 and $20,000—from each of the 12 named victims in this case. The alleged victims are Bangladeshi nationals. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

PUBLIC NOTICE

OF CUC'S CONDITIONALLY APPROVED WATER AND WASTEWATER MASTER PLAN TO BE PRESENTED DURING A PUBLIC MEETING ON AUGUST 15, 2017

This is a notice of a public meeting to be held by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") for the purpose of presenting and discussing the Water and Wastewater Master Plan which has been conditionally approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA").

CUC will conduct a public meeting on **August 15, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.,** at the **CNMI Multi-Purpose Center** located on Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, to provide information on and to receive discussion and public comment related to CUC's conditionally approved Water and Wastewater Master Plan.

Pursuant to Section III.B., Paragraph 50 of Stipulated Order Number One for Preliminary Injunctive Relief ("SO1"), filed under United States District Court for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. 08-0051, CUC is required to develop and submit for EPA approval a comprehensive drinking water and wastewater master plan ("Master Plan") to address the drinking water and wastewater systems needs in the CNMI for the next 20 years. The Master Plan's requirements and scope of interest is set forth further under Sections III.B1, B2, B3 and B4 of SO1.

Copies of the conditionally approved Master Plan and SO1 are available in its entirety for review for at least the next 45 days on CUC's website at: http://www.cucgov.org. Please click on "Draft Water & Wastewater Master Plan" to view or download the documents. A written copy of the Master Plan will also be available for inspection at the CUC Administrative Office: Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan; CUC Tinian Office; CUC Rota Office. CUC will also be providing copies to the Joeten-Kiyu Library and the Northern Marianas College Library during this time.

Written comments are also being solicited and can be mailed to CUC at P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to: CUC Administrative Office: Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan; CUC Tinian Office; CUC Rota Office.

Man allegedly strangled, slapped girlfriend

A man was arrested for allegedly strangling and repeatedly slapping his girlfriend at their house in Dandan on Thursday night.

Deogracias Gordon Dungca, 56, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, attempted robbery, assault and battery, assault, and disturbing the peace.

The victim had a 4-inch bruise on the left leg, a 2-inch ligature mark on her throat, and a swollen face, police said.

Bail for Dungca was set at $10,000 cash; preliminary hearing is on Aug. 21 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Jamal Saleh will represent Dungca.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas appeared for the government on Friday afternoon.

Police said that Dungca poured water on the face of his girlfriend, hit her with a water scoop on the left leg twice, strangled her, and repeatedly slapped her face.

The woman said she was crying for help, but Dungca told her God would not help her and that he was going to kill her.

She bit Dungca on the right arm and managed to run away. She later went back to the house to get her shirt and purse so she could leave but ran outside again and sought the help of a neighbor.

Police responded and arrested the suspect. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Robbery in Garapan

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for a robbery incident in Garapan.

On Thursday night, Aug. 10, 2017, at about 10:28pm, police met with the victim, a 27-year-old Asian female. Police learned the victim was walking on the sidewalk near RJ Tobacco, Wine and Liquor Store along Beach Road, Garapan. The suspect approached the victim from behind, grabbed her purse from her shoulder, and ran toward the beach.

The victim chased the suspect and lost sight of the suspect in the dark. The items stolen include a green small purse containing a gold-colored iPhone, and $400. The victim was not injured.

The suspect is described as a male in his late 20s, about 5'8" to 5'10" tall, skinny, and wearing a pair of brown/khaki shorts, orange-sleeved shirt, a pair of slippers, and a green hat.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use the website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net. Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2017
6:00AM - 2:00PM
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Livestock Competition
Ornamental Flowers/ Specialty Crop Competition
Plant Division Competition
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TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE COMPETITIONS, PLEASE VISIT:
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• Department of Lands & Natural Resources, Lower Base
• Animal Health Industry As Perdido
• Garapan Public Market
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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Department of Public works would like to inform the general public particularly business owners operating hotels, industrial building, commercial buildings, apartment buildings, office spaces, multiple-family residential buildings and other structures used for business shall possess valid certificate of occupancy issued by the Building Safety Code Division of the department.

CNMI Public Law 6-45, Subchapter 155-0.1 of the Building Safety Code Rules and Regulations specifies the following:

§ 155-10.1-301 Certificate of Occupancy:

No building or structure hereafter erected shall be occupied or used, in whole or in part, until a certificate of occupancy has been issued by the building safety official and posted on the premises certifying that such building conforms to the provisions of the Safety Code and the regulations in this subchapter. The certificate of occupancy shall remain posted indefinitely in a conspicuous place. A certificate of occupancy for a business shall be issued with a term of one year only; the business must renew the certificate each year.

It is the responsibility of the operator, business owner or owners to apply or to renew certificate of occupancy. Effective August 20, 2017, Building Inspectors from the Building Safety Code Division will perform routine inspections and verify if certificate of occupancies is posted on the conspicuous place of the establishments.

For more information, please visit: Building Safety Code Division
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center
Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-2726/2296

/S/ CASIANO M. BOSTRE, P.E.
Building Safety Official

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

Man gets 90 days for destruction, resisting arrest

A former employee of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs accused of destroying items owned by his girlfriend and resisting arrest has pleaded guilty and was slapped with a 90-day prison term.

George Repeki, 59, pleaded guilty Tuesday last week to assault (domestic violence), criminal mischief (domestic violence), and resisting arrest as part of a plea deal.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho sentenced Repeki to one-year imprisonment, all suspended except for 90 days, with credit for 51 days of time served.

He will then be placed on supervised probation for two years.

Repeki was ordered to pay a $100 fine, $25 in court costs plus probation fee. He was required to surrender his firearm and firearm identification card to the Department of Public Safety, complete anger management counseling and alcohol counseling, and perform 200 hours of community service, among other conditions.

Camacho noted that Repeki has a prior conviction for assault and battery in a 1991 case.

The Office of the Attorney General originally charged him with assault with a dangerous weapon (domestic violence), assault (domestic violence), criminal mischief (domestic violence), disturbing the peace, assault and battery, and resisting arrest. That carries a total maximum sentence of 14 years in prison.

The charges were later amended to assault (domestic violence), criminal mischief (domestic violence), and resisting arrest, which carry a total maximum prison sentence of two years and six months.

Assistant public defender Shoshanah Epstein represents Repeki.

The case stems from an incident on June 18, 2017, when Repeki destroyed appliances and other belongings at his girlfriend's house in Tanapag. The damaged property included a washing machine, air-conditioner, refrigerator, and furniture.

When a police officer attempted to arrest him, Repeki resisted. According to a police report, the officer had to mace Repeki.

The girlfriend told police that Repeki had been drinking since 7pm that Father's Day and told her to buy more drinks but she refused.

Repeki then allegedly took a machete and threatened to kill her. She was frightened so she drove away. He then started breaking her appliances and belongings in the house. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CAMPUS BRIEFS

ChaCha Oceanview orientation

ChaCha Oceanview Middle School will be having a student orientation:

- 6th grade: Aug. 14, 9am, school cafeteria
- 7th and 8th grade: Aug. 15, 9am, school cafeteria

Call the school at 237-3165 or 664-4100/03 if you have any question or concerns. ***(PR)***

GTC Elementary sets orientation, Open House

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School is inviting GTC families to attend the upcoming orientation/Open House on Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017, at 5pm in the school cafeteria. We will discuss important information for SY2017-2018, meet teachers and staff, as well as clarify any questions you may have. Teachers will also be available in their classrooms to meet with students and parents/guardians to share expectations set for the new school year. ***(PR)***

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs-Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will hold a Public Hearing on

DATE	TIME	ISLAND	VENUE
AUGUST 17, 2017	5:30-6:30 PM	ROTA	ROTA YOUTH CENTER

The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments on the 2018 LIHEAP State Plan for submission to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to implement the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for eligible households in the CNMI.

Copies of the LIHEAP State Plan will be available for public inspection beginning Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at the DCCA-LIHEAP office located in Capitol Hill, Asuncion Road, Building #1339 and on the web at **dcca.gov.mp.** Persons wishing to schedule testimony or receive a copy of the LIHEAP State Plan should contact DCCA-LIHEAP at 664-2574 or 664-2587.

Public comments are due by Thursday, August 24, 2017. You may submit your comments via fax, mail, email, or drop-off at the LIHEAP Office.

Mailing Address: Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

Contact #: DCCA-LIHEAP 664-2574/2578 • FAX: 664-2570
DCCA Secretary's Office 664-2577/2587/2588

Email Address: Remedio Pangelinan, LIHEAP Acting Supervisor (rp.dcca@gmail.com)
Robert Hunter, DCCA Secretary (roberthhunter@gmail.com)

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Program Officer
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) is inviting dynamic, motivated, and self-driven individuals with strong interest in the humanities to submit an employment application for the position of Program Officer.

The Program Officer is responsible for developing and implementing a variety of humanities programs and events and coordinating the Council's Community Grants program under the supervision of the Council's executive director. A detailed description of the Program Officer's duties may be obtained from the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai or from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Applicants for this position must possess: (1). strong analytic, writing and communication skills; (2). knowledge of grants writing and grants administration; (3). the ability to work effectively with people from diverse backgrounds; (4). a working knowledge of NMI history and of current political, social and economic issues confronting the local community; (5). basic computer skills including knowledge of MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint; and (6). the ability to articulate the Council's mission to a wide range of audiences.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) in a humanities discipline from an accredited post-secondary institution. The salary range is from $35,000 to $40,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits are set forth in the Council's Personnel Policy Manual.

Interested individuals are invited to send an application package including: (1). letter of interest; (2). detailed résumé; (3). a writing sample (500-800 words on a humanities topic of your choice); and (4). the names and addresses of three references to Scott Russell, Executive Director, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Box 506407, Saipan, MP 96950. Complete application packages must be received by Council staff on or before 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, 2017. For more information about this employment opportunity please contact Council staff at 235-4785.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is an equal opportunity employer.

COURTESY CALL

The Saipan Mayor's Office welcomed its first group of exchange students from China last Wednesday. Here, the exchange students pose for a picture with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang. A total of 11 high school exchange students visited the Saipan Mayor's Office under the auspices of Discovery Tours Saipan. The visit inspired Apatang to plan to establish a Chinese student exchange program through the Saipan Mayor's Office.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Kilili: Turtle recovery grant funded

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced Friday that the Commonwealth is receiving a second year of funding for projects to support the recovery of endangered green and hawksbill sea turtles.

All together for a three-year grant period, the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources has been awarded $248,612. Friday's continuation grant is for $95,562.

"Every generation is responsible for caring for the environmental resources that have been handed down to us," Sablan said, "and responsible for passing along to those who come after an environment in better condition than we received it.

"Protecting Marianas iconic species, like the green sea turtle and the hawksbill sea turtle, is something that our grandchildren and their grandchildren will thank us for."

The Marianas project is one of 28 multi-year awards made by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under the Species Recovery Grant Program. Total funding for 2017 is $5.8 million.

The grants support the implementation of recovery actions for those species facing a very high risk of extinction.

The Division of Lands and Natural Resources is using its grant money to develop a hotline and hire a sea turtle conservation officer to increase response to, and enforcement of, stranding/poaching incidents. DLNR is also working on public service announcements and an elementary school education curriculum to help reduce poaching of sea turtles.

Harvest of green and hawksbill turtles still occurs in CNMI at unknown levels.

Also announced Friday was funding for year one of a three-year award to Guam's Department of Agriculture for sea turtle recovery and to Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources for conservation and management of false killer whales and other endangered cetaceans. ***(PR)***

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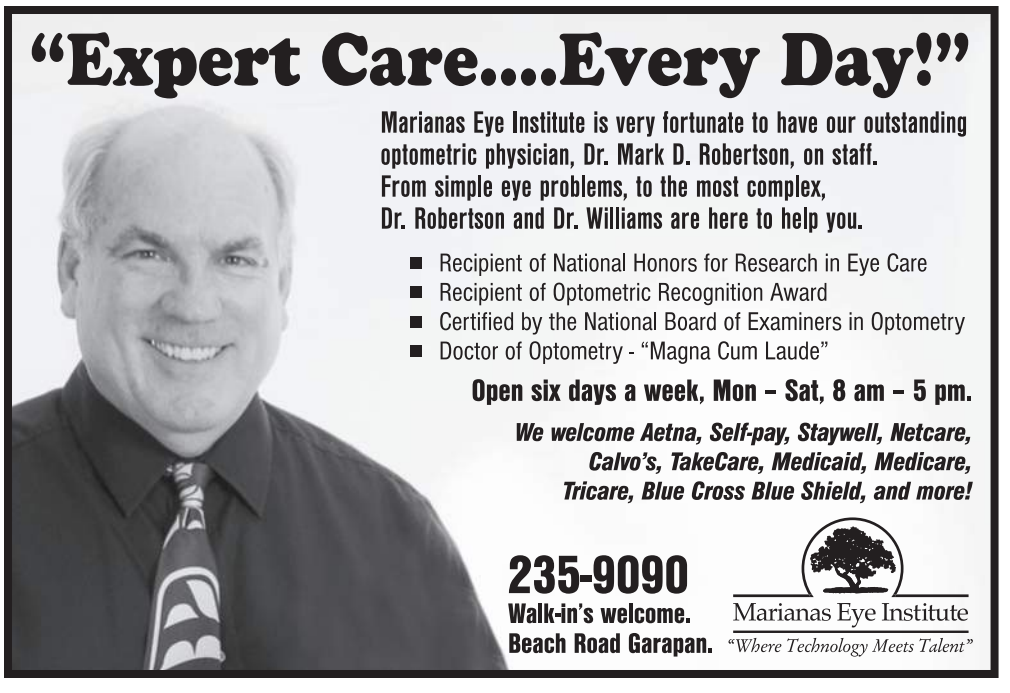
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TakeCare Saipan Office
3rd Floor, TSL Plaza
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan MP 96950
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1(877) 484.2411 (Toll Free 24/7)
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Opinion

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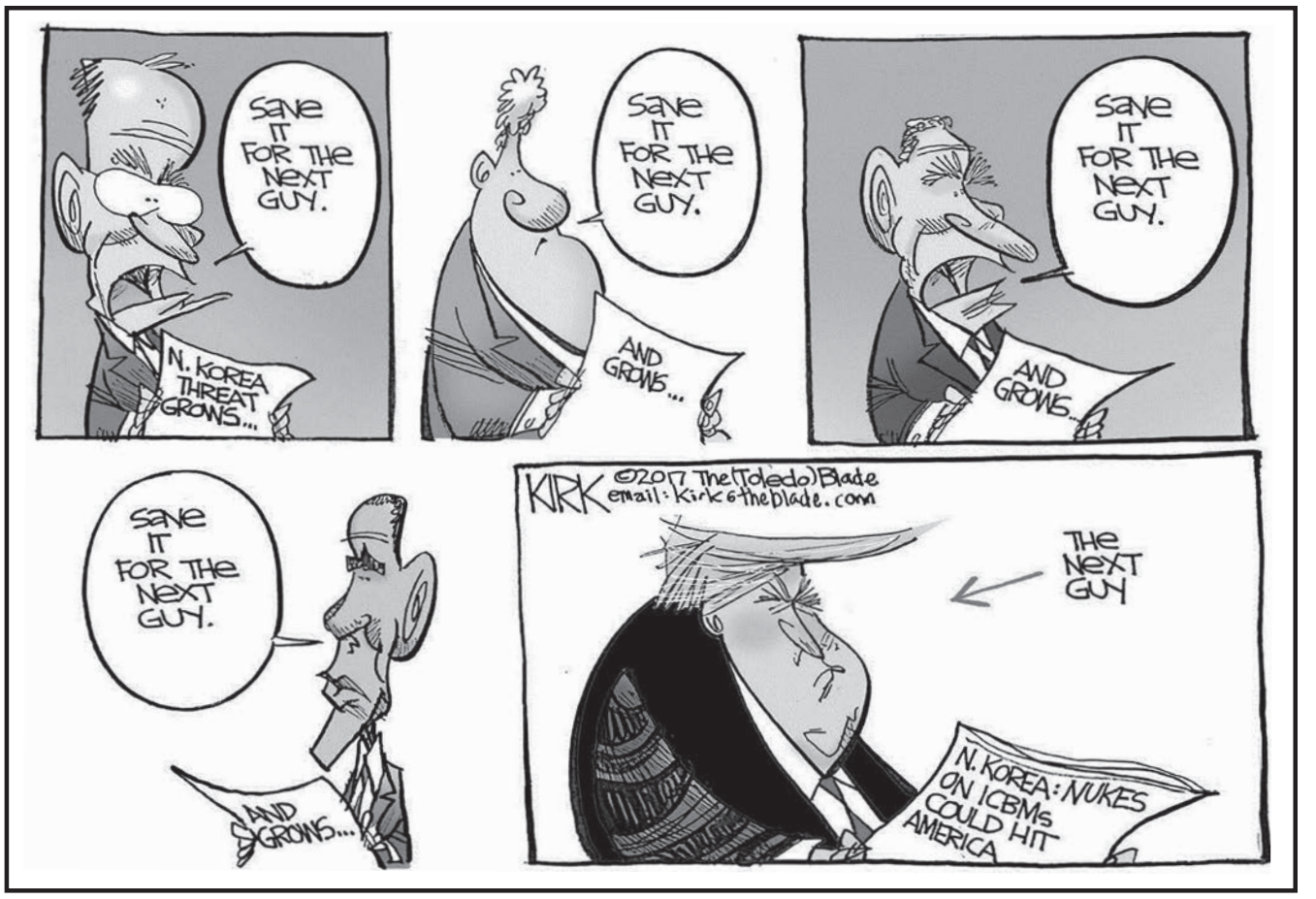
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THE NEXT GUY
N. KOREA: NUKES ON ICBMs COULD HIT AMERICA

EDITORIAL

Who is crazier, Donald Trump or North Korea's Kim Jong Un?

Where are the grownups?

We've come to expect childish behavior from Donald Trump, the bully-in-chief who attacks and belittles anyone who challenges him. But this week's game of nuclear roulette with equally egocentric and pathologically defensive Kim Jong Un goes magnitudes beyond the norm.

Where was Chief of Staff John Kelly Tuesday when Trump was threatening a pre-emptive nuclear strike against North Korea? Where were Rex Tillerson, James Mattis and the rest when news broke that North Korea might have a miniaturized nuclear weapon that could fit on its missiles? Surely these smart men should have seen what was coming from their own fearless leader?

When the president chose his defense and foreign policy teams, conservatives told Americans not to worry. These were experienced hands who would stop the president from doing anything reckless. Maybe they meant physically keeping his finger off the button—but playing make-my-day with Kim risks goading him to strike first.

The confrontation with North Korea screams for a diplomatic solution, and the Trump administration had been on that path. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's measured policy statements won unanimous support, including China and Russia, for harsh new United Nations sanctions over the latest missile tests.

But when Trump encountered reporters at his New Jersey golf resort Tuesday, he blustered:

"North Korea best not make any more threats to the United States. They will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen."

It's impossible to read this as anything but a threat of a pre-emptive nuclear strike.

North Korea responded predictably with a more specific threat, suggesting it would attack Guam, an American territory 2,000 miles southeast of Pyongyang.

Tillerson tried to allay fears. "Nothing that I have seen and nothing that I know of would indicate that the situation has dramatically changed in the last 24 hours. Americans should sleep well at night." But he also defended Trump, saying the president had sent "a strong message to North Korea in language that Kim Jong Un would understand."

Even worse, Defense Secretary James Mattis egged Trump on, saying Wednesday that "the DPRK should cease any consideration of actions that would lead to the end of its regime and the destruction of its people."

Posturing like this might be benign with a less volatile enemy. But more than one foreign policy expert has warned that you can't "out-crazy" Kim Jong Un.

As for Kelly? Kelly was reportedly sitting directly across

See WHO on Next Page

Who are you calling a 'warmonger'?

By JAMES KIRCHICK
Los Angeles Times

James Kirchick is author of The End of Europe: Dictators, Demagogues and the Coming Dark Age. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

Do you believe that economic sanctions are necessary to prevent the Iranian government from obtaining nuclear weapons? That small, Eastern European democracies living in the shadow of an aggressive Russia ought have the choice to join a defensive military alliance? That democracy promotion and the protection of human rights should be at the forefront of American foreign policy?

If so, you have probably been called a "warmonger." It's a favorite of the isolationist alt-right and the burgeoning, equally isolationist "dirtbag left." Of course, the traditional left doesn't shy away from it, either. "The rest of the world, almost unanimously, looks at America as the No. 1 warmonger," says Jimmy Carter, who also has used the epithet to describe Sen. John McCain, a man who knows the costs of war better than most.

As a term of political abuse, "warmonger" is frequently deployed to assail individuals recommending measures far short of war, like the aforementioned Iran sanctions, NATO enlargement or human rights promotion. "Warmonger" belongs to the idiom of political propaganda, and like all propaganda, its purpose is not to clarify but to condemn—which is key to understanding its ignoble 20th century pedigree as a pejorative favored by fascists and communists, sometimes speaking in harmony.

In the years before American entry into World War II, isolationists frequently hurled the "warmonger" charge at President Franklin Delano Roosevelt over his support for arming Great Britain against the growing Nazi threat. FDR, according to the notorious Father Charles Coughlin, was "the world's chief warmonger" and "the warmonger hireling of the Jews."

Whether they knew it or not, Roosevelt's critics were echoing Nazi propaganda. "Roosevelt main tool of Jewish Freemasonry; Sensational Document Reveals Connection of the Warmonger with the International Clique," declared the Volkische Beobachter, the official newspaper of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, in the summer of 1941. That same year, in what was dubbed "The Warmonger Hearings," a bipartisan group of isolationist senators launched an investigation into Hollywood's alleged pro-war messaging, a foretaste of the House Un-American Activities Committee that would target communist influence a decade later.

For the two years that Nazi Germany was allied with the Soviet Union, American communists joined right-wing isolationists in denouncing Roosevelt as a "warmonger," only to jettison that line of attack the minute Hitler turned on Stalin.

But after the war against fascism ended and the Cold War began, "warmonger" became a staple of communist propaganda again. When British Prime Minister Winston Churchill delivered his famous "Iron Curtain" speech in Fulton, Mo., Stalin referred to his erstwhile wartime ally as a "warmonger" and banned publication of the address in the Soviet Union. In 1950, as it set about occupying Eastern Europe, the Communist Information Bureau published a document titled "The Defense of Peace and the Struggle Against the Warmonger."

The Soviets and their sympathizers in the West applied "warmonger" to everyone from Churchill (picketed at a 1946 speech in Madison Square Garden by members of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship) to Henry Wallace, the former Progressive Party presidential candidate who later confessed to being a dupe for Soviet totalitarianism. Like "fascist," Moscow and its fellow travelers used "warmonger" to describe essentially anyone even remotely critical of the Soviet system and its foreign policy.

"Warmonger" was given a new lease on life after 9/11 and the response these attacks engendered from Western democracies. Today, virtually any measure undertaken to confront terrorist groups or authoritarian regimes is routinely decried as "warmongering" by an ideologically diverse assortment of pundits and political actors.

During the 2016 presidential campaign, supporters of Donald Trump frequently assailed Hillary Clinton as a "warmonger" for advocating a no-fly zone in Syria intended to defend innocent civilians from Bashar Assad's barrel bombs. On the left, Germany's former foreign minister last summer decried NATO exercises as "warmongering" and "saber-rattling" designed to provoke Russia.

In both cases, and in keeping with the term's dishonorable lineage, the behavior of the actual aggressor was conveniently ignored. Indeed, whether employed by communists, fascists, the alt-right or the isolationist left, what's consistent about "warmonger" is how it's applied only to the actions of liberal democracies. Those who complain most often about "warmongering" are conspicuously silent about the behavior of anti-Western regimes and movements, whether Russia (warmongering in Eastern Ukraine), Iran (warmongering in Syria), Hamas (warmongering against Israel) or Venezuela (warmongering against its own people).

Calling someone a "warmonger" is, then, a politicized form of the psychological phenomenon known as "projection," whereby one ascribes his own nefarious conduct and motives onto others. By flinging the term at anyone who advocates a muscular response to terrorism and dictatorship, those who lob "warmonger" are faithfully carrying on the tradition of fascists and communists.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How low can you go?

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
Managing Editor

Jayvee Vallejera is the managing editor of Saipan Tribune.

We were on the same boat about four years ago. In 2013, North Korea was also rattling its saber, a paper tiger showing off its large teeth to Washington, D.C., and Washington, D.C. wringing its hands at the tantrum Kim Jong Un was throwing. The only difference was that, at that time, the U.S. President had a much cooler head and refused to engage Kim in a verbal tit for tat.

As in 2013, reams and reams of paper are being used up, gallons upon gallons of ink are being spilled, and hours and hours of TV and radio airtime are being devoted to examining the geopolitical implications of a United States-North Korea dustup, many by political analysts, military strategists, and writers much better suited to that task. I just like lying on the beach. The difference is that today's social media has reduced the specter of nuclear warfare to fodder for small talk. Expect to have the subject crop up during a haircut or mani-pedi.

> *Sounds like a fight between two spoiled boys in a sandlot*

Whatever the case may be, I will leave it up to better informed and more aware people to ponder the implications of the issue.

Of course, this would be a good example of how to make sense of an issue by reducing it to an absurd level. However, the inevitable trajectories of extending the issue are not funny at all. Grotesque, yes, but haha, no. C'mon, who says things like "fire and fury" like a character from an episode of *Game of Thrones*, or reducing Japan "to ashes" and surrounding Guam in "a sea of fire." North Korean Gen. Kim Rak Gyom was even quoted as saying about Trump, "Sound dialogue is not possible with such a guy bereft of reason and only absolute force can work on him." I envy his way with an insult.

Not being a voter, I've been told I should have no opinion on the subject. As in, that's a fight between the United States and North Korea. If they want to come at each other with knives, then leave them be. That's technically correct but, as is colloquially said, the United States is so big that when it sneezes, the rest of the world catches a cold. In this case, if the United States gets dragged into a nuclear war, I will be freezing my ass in a nuclear winter (if I'm not dead by then), whether I live in a United States soil or not or whether I carry around a piece of paper that defines my nationality or not.

Also, modern-day nukes have yield that would make the bombs exploded over Hiroshima and Nagasaki seem like child's play. It's not as if a bomb could be dropped on the Saipan Lagoon and you get a front-row seat to a fireworks display.

According to a *Washington Post* story, U.S. intelligence officials now believe North Korea's claim that it has the technology to fit its missiles with nuclear warheads. A Reuters story says that Japan's defense ministry has also recently stated this is a possibility. That puts a worrying spin on the current spat between the United States and North Korea. That effectively means that any nuclear bomb exploded in Guam would mean nuclear fallout in the CNMI. So yes, it's not just the countries adjacent to North Korea and Guam that have as much right to an opinion on the issue as any American citizen.

This early, the exchange between Trump and Kim has already had its first casualty—that sense of restraint and subtlety when expressing disdain for one's enemy. To hell with being presidential and Sun Tzu's edicts on the art of war (elitist crap!). It's now the modern way to tip one's hand on what one intends to do next, like threatening North Korea "with fire and fury like the world has never seen." I expected the fulsome threats of North Korea (it has been doing this for many years and has much practice in boasting and bragging about its privates) but to have the United States echo this style of braggadocio unfortunately demeans the country and all it stands for. If anything, the saying, "Speak softly and carry a big stick" best sums up how the rest of the world sees the U.S. But for its President to trade threats with Pyongyang is not exactly about rising to the occasion. It sounds very much like a fight between two spoiled boys in a sandlot. Like seeing how low one can go.

They tried to warn us for 72 years; we didn't listen

By WILL BUNCH
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Will Bunch is a Philadelphia Inquirer *columnist. Readers may send him email at bunchw@phillynews.com.*

For 72 years, they've tried to warn us that a time like this would come.

The world-renowned scientist Albert Einstein—his 1939 letter to President Franklin Roosevelt played a critical role leading to the atomic bombs that devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki—tried to warn us, writing in 1952 to lament his role and to argue that continued development of nuclear warheads "leads inevitable (sic) to war, which, in turn, under today's conditions, spells universal destruction."

The president who made the fateful decision to drop those two bombs on Japan in 1945—Harry Truman—tried to warn us, stating in his 1953 farewell address that "starting an atomic war is totally unthinkable for rational men."

For the most part, we haven't been listening. We instead grew bored and even apathetic about the incomprehensible destructive power of nukes. More than seven decades into the Atomic Age, more nations than ever collectively possess enough nuclear warheads—nearly 15,000—to theoretically destroy the planet at least five times over, and possibly many times more than that (although five times seems more than sufficient, no?). And there were two things that—assuming the world continued to build nuclear bombs, which we did—worried the great scientists and political leaders of yesteryear more than anything else.

The first was nuclear proliferation—that eventually the technology to build and deploy nuclear weapons would fall into the hands of an unstable dictatorship (or, even worse, terrorists or other unaccountable stateless actors). The second fear, less clearly stated, is that the great powers with the bulk of the world's nuclear arsenal—like the United States and the USSR/Russia—might not always have wise leaders with the savvy to see radioactive hell-fire bombs as a beyond-last-resort deterrent to conventional war.

Instead of getting rid of the planet's horrifying nuclear arsenal, humankind's only winning strategy for avoiding Armageddon these last 72 years was not having nuclear launch codes in the hands of people like North Korea's dangerous and despotic Kim Jong Un—or a hotheaded, impulsive, and unconventional American president like Donald Trump. The last week has revealed the utter folly of that notion.

The thing is, we've been lucky, starting with the leadership shown by President Dwight Eisenhower—whose successful strategy for avoiding World War III during the fraught early days of the Cold War meant threatening rivals with the use of America's then-sizable nuclear advantage, even though privately he vowed to do everything possible to never follow through. But the scheme that author Evan Thomas labeled "Ike's Bluff" meant that America developed a bat-guano-crazy arsenal of 30,000 nukes during those years—six times larger than today.

Since then, our ADD-addled interest in nuclear bombs has ebbed and flowed. The nuclear-freeze movement of the early 1980s and the buzz generated by TV's "The Day After" was followed by some real progress on disarmament through Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev, punctuated by the hopeful end of the Cold War. But the next generation of leaders has mostly botched the follow-through. And nothing epitomized the failure of our nuke-free dreams more than the disappointing policies of Barack Obama.

The irony is that the nuclear-freeze movement was what had motivated the young Obama, then a student at Columbia, to take an interest in politics in the first place. Unlike the thousands of others in that movement with him, Obama grew up to take charge of the world's largest nuclear arsenal, only to lose focus on the wider issue of disarmament while he focused on the more immediate problem of Iran. Not only did Obama not reduce the vast number of warheads as much as his predecessors did, but near the end of his term, he actually endorsed a $1 trillion—that's trillion with a T—plan to modernize, replace, and restore the stockpile.

"We think it's a dangerously extreme proposal," Tom Z. Collina, policy director of the Ploughshares Fund, the largest U.S. philanthropy focused on arms reduction, told me. "We can maintain U.S. security and spend a lot less money and be a lot less provocative."

The Obama plan would take that ability to destroy the world a few times over, and simply preserve it. That's the scheme that Trump has now also endorsed and tweeted—falsely, of course—that he has been busy carrying out. (In the reality-based world, the plan is still under review.) Not surprisingly, Russia's Vladimir Putin wants to modernize and upgrade the nukes that he controls—exactly the arms race the 21st century didn't need.

It doesn't have to be this way. The Ploughshares Fund has called for removing some outdated and unnecessary elements from the proposed nuclear overhaul, such as cruise missiles launched from jet aircraft and land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles. "We don't need them—the Cold War has been over for 25 years," Collina said. That would free up hundreds of billions of dollars for things other than annihilating human civilization.

In January, Democratic lawmakers introduced a Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act that would bar the president from launching a nuclear strike without a declaration of war by Congress, unless the United States was under a nuclear attack. That's a commonsense safeguard that's long overdue—and a sign that most Americans treat the threat of atomic destruction more seriously than our current president with his reckless "fire and fury" rhetoric.

WHO

From Page 10

the table, stone-faced, when Trump issued his threat.

Even if Korea's nukes could not reach our West Coast, effects on America's most important allies and trading partners in the region would be devastating. South Korea would be all but destroyed. Japan would be in grave peril.

In 2016, U.S. firms exported $63 billion in goods to Japan and $43 billion to South Korea. They are the third and 11th largest economies in the world. These are American interests at stake.

Where are the grownups in the White House?

(c)2017 *The Mercury News* (San Jose, Calif.)

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the morning, then isolated showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon.
▲89° ▼78°

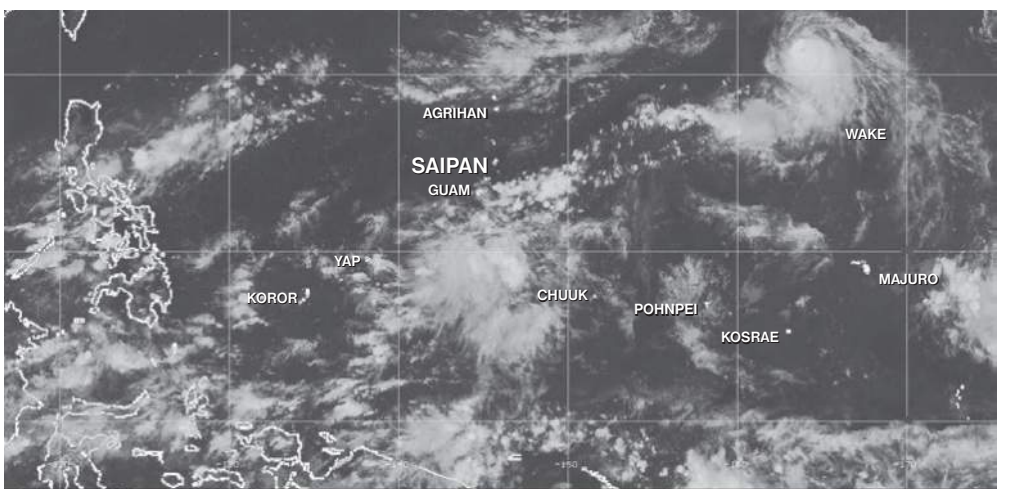
TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.
▲89° ▼78°

WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲90° ▼79°

THURSDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲90° ▼79°

FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:07 AM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A few changes made to the forecast. On Saturday night's surface analysis a surface trough could be found east of the Marianas. Satellite imagery and lightning data show a few showers and thunderstorms associated with the trough. Models show the trough pushing slowly west and bringing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms to the local area late tonight and Monday morning. There will be enough moisture and instability to produce isolated thunderstorms this afternoon through Tuesday night. Light winds and afternoon heating combined with the moisture and an unstable atmosphere will give a higher chance of afternoon thunderstorms over the islands. Light winds will be the norm for the forecast with winds not getting much higher than 15 mph at best. Another surface trough may bring scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms to the Mariana`s next weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 82°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	59° / 46°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	91° / 72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	91° / 84°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 59°
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 67°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Rain	61° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
New York	Showers	81° / 68°
Osaka	Showers	88° / 79°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	81° / 63°
Busan	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	90° / 68°
Salem	Thunderstorms	86° / 73°
San Francisco	Cloudy	63° / 56°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	88° / 72°
Tokyo	Rain	79° / 72°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	83° / 70°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:35 AM	LOW TIDE	0.41
12:25 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.56
6:21 PM	LOW TIDE	0.66
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Tuesday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:38 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:27 AM	11:30 PM
Tuesday	-	12:24 AM	-
Wednesday	12:20 AM	1:23 PM	-
Thursday	1:14 AM	2:24 PM	-
Friday	2:11 AM	3:24 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
ZE584	4:00pm	8:05pm	1, 3, 5
ZE584	4:35pm	8:15pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

ZE583	9:10am	2:40pm	1, 3, 5
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
ZE583	10:05am	3:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Internship program a confidence-booster for participants

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The experience of working in eight of TanHoldings Corp.'s businesses was a big help to the seven interns that joined the company's summer internship program, who said it gave them valuable insights as they prepare to take on different career paths.

The TanHoldings Summer Internship Program ended its six-week-long run last Wednesday with a completion ceremony and all interns were presented with certificates to mark the occasion.

The interns were rotated in eight TanHoldings businesses: Century Insurance, D&Q, Fiesta Resort & Spa-Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Let's Go/SEATOUCH, RMS, POI Aviation, and *Saipan Tribune*.

They got to spend at least a week in each business unit, reporting to mentors that showed them the daily operations. Last Wednesday, they took turns reflecting on their almost 30-day journey.

Conseco John P. Arurang, Sherilyn M. Beceril, Micaiah Joanna A. Corpuz, Alliyah I. Debengek, Mackenzie Rae U. Perez, Earl Daivick B. Tabora, and Aira Joy Velasco were the interns that participated in the second year of the program.

Arurang, who will soon start working at POI, said he is thankful to TanHoldings and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for coming up with the program. "It was hard but fun and the skills that I learned from my mentors will make my job easier."

Beceril, an incoming junior at Marianas High School, said that improving her communication skills was one of the benefits she gained. "It was nerve-wracking but it motivated me to do my best and it increased my communication skills."

Corpuz said the experience was more of a transformation for them. "We learned various skills from our mentors. It was an honor to meet the hardworking men and women of TanHoldings."

Debengek said she walked away with some experience from each of the business units she worked in. "I was really nervous to work on my own but as the days passed by, I got used to it. Everyone has a part to play."

Perez was a bit scared at first since she did not know anyone. "I have terrible communication skills. But now, I walk away from this program armed with skills I didn't know before. I grew up as a person through this program."

Tabora said the program not only taught him new skills, but also helped him to become sociable person. "I met new friends and I learned to step out of my comfort zone. Thank you to all our mentors for the educational journey."

Velasco, a senior at MHS, thanked his family and mentors for motivating and supporting her journey. "Our mistakes are part of who we are. Even with our mistakes, there are people who act as a compass that guide us. I overcame my shyness with their help."

JON PEREZ

The seven interns of the 2nd Annual TanHoldings Summer Internship Program pose for a group photo after Wednesday's completion ceremony at Kanoa Resort.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NOs.: ITB17-JUDICIARY-08
ITB17-JUDICIARY-09

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2017, 10:00 A.M.

ITB17-JUDICIARY-08: "PURCHASE OF A NEW 2016-2017 VEHICLE (5 Door All Wheel Drive Utility Vehicle) WITH SHIPPING TO TINIAN

ITB17-JUDICIARY-09: "PURCHASE OF A NEW 2016-2017 VEHICLE (5 Door All Wheel Drive Utility Vehicle) WITH SHIPPING TO ROTA

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
JUDICIARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
RFQ-17-CHCC/CGC-01

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 23, 2017 **TIME: 1:00 PM**
BID OPENING DATE: AUGUST 23, 2017 **TIME: 1:30 PM**

"SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) TREATMENT SERVICES, COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER (CGC), COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFQ PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 237-6824 ext. 23/22 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS SERVICES
NMC RFP 17-005

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed proposal from qualified firms as an "Independent Auditor" to perform a financial and compliance audit for the College.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Monday, August 14, 2017, between the hours of 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Proposal Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., September 15, 2017, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950.

For Proposers located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the RFP via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Discussion may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers.

NMC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and/or to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole discretion, to do so will be in the best interest of the College. All proposals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges

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MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.** in the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes
      a. Regular Board Meeting – July 11, 2017
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   1. Finance –
      a. Fund Status Report – July 2017
4) **New Business**
   1. ITB for Local Public Relations and Media Services
   2. Merchant Services
   3. Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival
5) **Old Business**
   1. MOU for Sugar King Park
   2. 2018 Lunar New Year Celebration
6) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
7) **Executive Session**
8) **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chair, MVA Board of Directors

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at 12:00noon*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board's office located at #1242 Pohnpei Ct., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (06/07/17)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
VII. Director's Report
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
   A. Governor's Office
   B. Legislature
X. Old Business:
XI. New Business:
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
   A. New Applications:
      ■ Physician – I. Ally
   B. Renewal Applications:
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
   A. Next Meeting Date
Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices (new wing).

CHCC Board of Trustees Meeting
August 17, 2017 5:30 p.m.

Agenda

I. Call to Order
II. Approval of the Agenda
III. Approval of the Minute
   A. Adoption of July 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes
   B. Adoption of July 20, 2017 Executive Session Minutes
IV. Reports
   A. Management and Operations
   B. Financial Statements
   C. Budget
   D. IT Report re: Patient Information Retrieval
   E. CMS and ECRI Report
V. Old Business
   A. Board of Trustees Budget
   B. Board of Trustees By-Laws
VI. New Business
   A. Top Priorities of the Board of Trustees
VII. Public Comments
VIII. Announcements
IX. Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 FAX: (670) 23-8756

Great Harvest opens first store in CNMI

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

From left, Rep. Donald Barcinas and other guests show their support for Triple J and Golden Harvest Bread Co.'s opening.

BEA CABRERA

Great Harvest Bread Co., which boasts of delicious bread from freshly ground wheat, opened its first store in the CNMI last Thursday.

Located in Chalan Kanoa on Beach Road, the newest international franchise store to penetrate the Saipan market is open seven days a week, from 6:30am to 9pm.

Great Harvest Bread Co., which got its start in Dillon, Montana, has more than 200 stores worldwide and has been ranked among the top 500 franchises for more than 18 years.

Triple J Saipan, which holds the bakery's local franchise, held a ribbon cutting and open house last Aug. 10 to celebrate the opening of Saipan's newest bakery.

Triple J president and COO Jeff Jones said the difference between a Golden Harvest bread and other bakeries "is we mill our wheat everyday. After grinding the wheat and making it into flour, we bake it right away and nothing could be fresher than that. We use the flour within 48 hours because that's the way to keep it fresh."

"We are also the only Golden Harvest franchise that has tortillas-corn and flour in different sizes. We have the machines that could produce hundreds of tortillas in an hour. We know the people in Saipan love tortillas, that is why we insisted on including the tortillas in our bakery," Jones added.

Great Harvest Bread Co. joins Triple J's portfolio of Saipan restaurants that include Tony Roma's, Capricciosa, Truong's Vietnamese Restaurant, Surf Club restaurant, and Bubba Gump Shrimp Company.

"I think Triple J became interested in purchasing a Great Harvest franchise because they thought it would do well in a community like this and that's how the ball got rolling," said Great Harvest franchising trainer Greta Holzhiemer.

Golden Harvest Bread Co.'s "slow baking" technique does it without shortcuts or preservatives.

"We mill our flour, ensuring fresh bread every single day. We only put five ingredients into our honey whole wheat bread—our freshly milled whole wheat flour, water, yeast , salt, and honey. We don't put any artificial flavors or preservatives into any of our bread," Holzhiemer added.

The bakery is the first of its kind for the Northern Marianas and will offer special menu items unique to Saipan that include sandwiches, soups, bread bowls, salads, fresh loaves, cookies, and other sweet goodies.

Donovan Jose P. Castro, head baker of Great Harvest, said, "The bread that we make is fresh. We come in at 4am and start baking, so when people come in at 8am, they can expect hot fresh bread."

"I highly recommend that people should come here and support Great Harvest. It is a great addition and enhancement to Chalan Kanoa and to the CNMI in general. It is good for the economy," said Rep. Donald C. Barcinas (R-Saipan).

"This is another good feature on island because it is a brand name that is well recognized in the United States," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion. "We are very happy they opened a branch here in the CNMI. We understand they plan to open a second branch in the Garapan area so we are happy about that."

He added, "This kind of franchises and international brands are very popular with tourists from around our region and so MVA will work closely with Triple J to promote this venture."

Visit Great Harvest Bread Co. and enjoy their promo from Aug. 11 to 18, 2017. When customers buy any loaf, they will receive a free loaf of honey whole wheat bread.

For more information visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/greatharvest-breadsaipan/

From left, Dick Cody, Mario Valentino, Jay Jones, Frank Ada, and Juan Carlos Benitez.

BEA CABRERA

Saipan's business community enjoys a group photo celebrating Triple J's new business venture.

BEA CABRERA

Great Harvest Bread Co. head baker Donovan Jose P. Castro, center, with staff and crew.

BEA CABRERA

Masato Tezuka of Tasi Tours, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion, and friends grace the bakery's opening.

BEA CABRERA

Movie and Music Night

PHOTOS By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Demalynn Pagarao performs during the Docomo Pacific/United Airlines Movie and Music Night located at the Francisco C. Palacios Baseball Field last Saturday night.

Docomo Pacific staff pass out free merchandise during the Docomo Pacific/United Airlines Movie and Music Night at the Francisco C. Palacios Baseball Field last Saturday night.

Families watch as the movie *Beauty and the Beast* is played at the Docomo Pacific/United Airlines Movie and Music Night at the Francisco C. Palacios Baseball Field last Saturday night.

Children enjoy the company of one another while putting to use the free beachballs given out by Docomo Pacific during the Docomo Pacific/United Airlines Movie and Music Night at the Francisco C. Palacios Baseball Field last Saturday night.

Many community members came out to enjoy the live music during the Docomo Pacific/United Airlines Movie and Music Night at the Francisco C. Palacios Baseball Field last Saturday night.

The musical group from Guam called "Dolls" performed their original songs during the Docomo Pacific/United Airlines Movie and Music Night at the Francisco C. Palacios Baseball Field last Saturday night.

Free food and beverages were distributed at the Docomo Pacific/United Airlines Movie and Music Night at the Francisco C. Palacios Baseball Field last Saturday night.

The musical group "Dolls" pose for a picture before their number during the Docomo Pacific/United Airlines Movie and Music Night at the Francisco C. Palacios Baseball Field last Saturday night.

Business

Trump wants probe of China trade practices

BEDMINSTER, N.J. (AP)—Even as he seeks Beijing's help on North Korea, President Donald Trump plans to sign an executive order asking his trade office to consider investigating China for the alleged theft of American technology and intellectual property, an administration official said Saturday.

That step is expected Monday but won't come as a surprise to the Beijing government. There is no deadline for deciding if any investigation is necessary. Such an investigation easily could last a year.

In a phone call Friday, Trump praised Chinese President Xi Jinping for backing the recent U.N. vote to impose tougher sanctions on North Korea, and the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. But Trump also told Xi about the move toward a possible inquiry into China's trade practices, according to two U.S. officials familiar with that conversation. They were not authorized to publicly discuss the private call and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump wants government officials to look at Chinese practices that force American companies to share their intellectual property in order to gain access to the world's second largest economy. Many U.S. businesses must create joint ventures with Chinese companies and turn over valuable technology assets, a practice that Washington says stifles U.S. economic growth.

Trump's action amounts to a request that his trade representative determine whether an investigation is needed under the Trade Act of 1974. If an investigation begins, the U.S. government could seek remedies either through the World Trade Organization or outside of it.

China's foreign and commerce ministries did not immediately respond to faxed requests for comment Sunday.

While Beijing has promised to open more industries to foreign companies, it also has issued new rules on electric car manufacturing, data security, internet censorship and other fields.

Trump, who is on a working vacation at his New Jersey golf club, said Friday that he planned to be in Washington on Monday "for a very important meeting'" and "we're going to have a pretty big press conference." It was not immediately clear whether he was talking about trade was the subject.

The administration official who confirmed that Trump would sign the order contended it was unrelated to the showdown with North Korea. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the order before Trump's formal announcement.

As the crisis has unfolded, Trump has alternated praising China for its help and chiding it for not ratcheting up pressure on its Asian neighbor.

"I think China can do a lot more," Trump told reporters Thursday. "And I think China will do a lot more."

Trump has escalated his harsh criticism of North Korea for days, tweeting Friday that the U.S. had military options "locked and loaded." Xi, in his phone conversation with Trump, urged calm.

"At present, relevant parties should exercise restraint and avoid words and actions that would escalate tensions on the Korean Peninsula," Xi said, according to the statement provided by China's government.

Trump, in the past, has tied trade policy to national security. In April, he said he wouldn't label China a currency manipulator, in return for help in dealing with North Korea. This past week, Trump said he could soften his views on trade if China stepped up its assistance, leading to speculation that the investigation could be a negotiating tactic.

The forced sharing of intellectual property with Chinese firms has been a long-standing concern of the U.S. business community.

Qatar crisis redraws red lines and frays age-old Gulf ties

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—It's early morning at a fishing port in Dubai. A group of mostly retired fishermen are playing cards, eating dates and drinking coffee at the port's majlis, a traditional meeting space.

Here, the Emirati fisherman say they aren't too worried about the political fallout with Qatar that's gripped the region since early June, when Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut ties with the small Gulf state, accusing it of supporting extremists.

"When it comes to politics, it's not our business," Thani Obeid said. "If everyone walks around saying their opinion there will be chaos."

Obeid, 65, and Salem Jomaa, 70, say they have faith in the "wisdom" of the region's rulers because "we are one family."

"The Gulf is one home. From Saudi Arabia to Ras al-Khaimah (in the UAE) to Oman. We are all brothers, cousins, friends," Jomaa said. "We are all Muslims."

Centuries-old ties that bind families to tribes and tribes to ruling sheikhs underpin the Arabian Peninsula, but that kinship is now under strain.

The crisis has also upended some red lines, making what was once illegal now legal, and vice-versa.

Chief among them was an understanding—enshrined in tradition and government enforced—that criticism of another Gulf country or its esteemed ruler could lead to automatic imprisonment and hefty fines.

After the row erupted June 5, those rules changed. Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain warned instead that anyone who sympathizes with Qatar or criticizes the measures taken against it would be imprisoned and fined.

Qatari citizens were also expelled from the three countries after years of visa-free travel throughout the Gulf. Transport links with Qatar were cut and Saudi Arabia sealed shut Qatar's only land border, impacting food imports.

Saudi and Emirati officials insist the measures are not aimed at Qatari citizens, but at the government. That distinction has meant little to Qataris who say the blockade on their country and the assault on their leadership is like an attack on the whole society.

"If they talk about our emir, it's like they are talking about us. The siege and blockade and making it illegal to sympathize with Qatar, this is against us," Ahmed al-Khayli, a 36-year-old Qatari said.

Speaking by phone from Qatar, al-Khayli said he believes the relationship between Qataris and others in the Gulf has become "more sensitive."

Many Qataris—who number around 270,000 citizens—believe their small, energy-rich country is standing up for itself, refusing to surrender its sovereignty. Patriotic fervor has swept through the country. Towering images of its 37-year-old ruling emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, are plastered on cars, billboards and storefronts across the capital.

Nation

3 dead, dozens injured, amid violent white nationalist rally

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP)—A car rammed into a crowd of protesters and a state police helicopter crashed into the woods Saturday as tension boiled over at a white supremacist rally. The violent day left three dead, dozens injured and this usually quiet college town a bloodied symbol of the nation's roiling racial and political divisions.

AP

Charlottesville resident Elliot Harding lights a candle as he places flowers and a stuffed animal at a makeshift memorial for the victims after a car plowed into a crowd of people peacefully protesting a white nationalist rally earlier in the day in Charlottesville, Va., Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017.

The chaos erupted around what is believed to be the largest group of white nationalists to come together in a decade—including neo-Nazis, skinheads, members of the Ku Klux Klan—who descended on the city to "take America back" by rallying against plans to remove a Confederate statue. Hundreds came to protest against the racism. There were street brawls and violent clashes; the governor declared a state of emergency, police in riot gear ordered people out and helicopters circled overhead.

Peaceful protesters were marching downtown, carrying signs that read "black lives matter" and "love." A silver Dodge Challenger suddenly came barreling through "a sea of people" and smashed into another car, said Matt Korbon, a 22-year-old University of Virginia student.

The impact hurled people into the air and blew off their shoes. A 32-year-old woman was killed as she crossed the street.

"It was a wave of people flying at me," said Sam Becker, 24, sitting in the emergency room to be treated for leg and hand injuries.

Those left standing scattered, screaming and running for safety. Video caught the car reversing, hitting more people, its windshield splintered from the collision and bumper dragging on the pavement. Medics carried the injured, bloodied and crying, away as a police tank rolled down the street.

The driver, James Alex Fields Jr., a 20-year-old who recently moved to Ohio from where he grew up in Kentucky, was charged with second-degree murder and other counts. Field's mother, Samantha Bloom, told The Associated Press on Saturday night that she knew her son was attending a rally in Virginia but didn't know it was a white supremacist rally.

"I thought it had something to do with Trump. Trump's not a white supremacist," said Bloom, who became visibly upset as she learned of the injuries and deaths at the rally

"He had an African-American friend so ...," she said before her voice trailed off. She added that she'd be surprised if her son's views were that far right.

His arrest capped off hours of unrest. Hundreds of people threw punches, hurled water bottles and unleashed chemical sprays. Some came prepared for a fight, with body armor and helmets. Videos that ricocheted around the world on social media showed people beating each other with sticks and shields.

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe and Charlottesville Mayor Michael Signer, both Democrats, lumped the blame squarely on the rancor that has seeped into American politics and the white supremacists who came from out of town into their city, nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, home to Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's plantation.

"There is a very sad and regrettable coarseness in our politics that we've all seen too much of today," Signer said at a press conference. "Our opponents have become our enemies, debate has become intimidation."

Some of the white nationalists at Saturday's rally cited President Donald Trump's victory after a campaign of racially-charged rhetoric as validation for their beliefs.

Trump criticized the violence in a tweet Saturday, followed by a press conference and a call for "a swift restoration of law and order."

"We condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides," he said.

The "on many sides" ending of his statement drew the ire of his critics, who said he failed to specifically denounce white supremacy and equated those who came to protest racism with the white supremacists. The Rev. Jesse Jackson noted that Trump for years questioned President Barack Obama's citizenship and his legitimacy as the first black president, and has fanned the flames of white resentment.

"We are in a very dangerous place right now," Jackson said. McAuliffe said at Saturday's press conference that he spoke to Trump on the phone, and insisted that the president must work to combat hate.

Trump said he agreed with McAuliffe "that the hate and the division must stop and must stop right now."

Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced late Saturday that federal authorities will pursue a civil rights investigation into the circumstances surrounding the crash.

The violence and deaths in Charlottesville strike at the heart of American law and justice," Sessions wrote. "When such actions arise from racial bigotry and hatred, they betray our core values and cannot be tolerated."

Asia

Xi calls for calm after Trump says US is 'locked and loaded'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Chinese President Xi Jinping made a plea for coolheadedness over escalating tensions between the U.S. and North Korea in a phone conversation with U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday, urging both sides to avoid words or actions that could worsen the situation.

The call came after Trump unleashed a slew of fresh threats against North Korea on Friday, declaring the U.S. military "locked and loaded" and warning North Korean leader Kim Jong Un that he "will regret it fast" if he takes any action against U.S. territories or allies.

Trump has pushed China to pressure North Korea to halt a nuclear weapons program that is nearing the capability of targeting the United States. China is the North's biggest economic partner and source of aid, but says it alone can't compel Pyongyang to end its nuclear and missile programs.

The White House said in a statement that Trump and Xi "agreed North Korea must stop its provocative and escalatory behavior." It also said that the two "reiterated their mutual commitment to denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

State-run China Central Television quoted Xi as telling Trump the "relevant parties must maintain restraint and avoid words and deeds that would exacerbate the tension on the Korean Peninsula."

But restraint was not the word of the day on Friday as Trump sent out a cascade of unscripted statements, including what appeared to be another red line—the mere utterance of threats—that would trigger a U.S. attack against North Korea and "big, big trouble" for Kim.

North Korea's Minju Joson newspaper, meanwhile, lashed back at the U.S. in an editorial Saturday.

"The powerful revolutionary Paektusan army of the DPRK, capable of fighting any war the U.S. wants, is now on the standby to launch fire into its mainland, waiting for an order of final attack," it said. DPRK stands for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The tough talk capped a week in which long-standing tensions between the countries risked abruptly boiling over.

New United Nations sanctions condemning the North's rapidly developing nuclear program drew fresh ire and threats from Pyongyang. Trump, responding to a report that U.S. intelligence indicates Pyongyang can now put a nuclear warhead on its long-range missiles, vowed to rain down "fire and fury" if challenged.

The North then came out with a threat to lob four intermediate-range "Hwasong-12" missiles near Guam, a tiny U.S. territory some 3,200 kilometers (2,000 miles) from Pyongyang.

At the epicenter of the rhetoric, Trump's New Jersey golf course, the president seemed to put Kim on notice, saying, "If he utters one threat in the form of an overt threat - which by the way he has been uttering for years and his family has been uttering for years - or he does anything with respect to Guam or anyplace else that's an American territory or an American ally, he will truly regret it and he will regret it fast."

Asked if the U.S. was going to war, he said cryptically, "I think you know the answer to that."

But Trump's comments did not appear to be backed by significant military mobilization on either side of the Pacific, and an important, quiet diplomatic channel remained open. As a precaution, Japan deployed missile defense batteries under the path a North Korean missile might take.

Life on the streets of the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, also remained calm.

There have been no air raid drills or cars in camouflage netting as has been the case during previous crises. State-run media ensures that the population gets the North Korean side of the story, but doesn't convey any sense of international concern about the situation.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Rescuers pull out 6 bodies after landslide hits north India

DHARAMSALA, India (AP)—Army soldiers and rescue workers on Sunday pulled out six bodies from two buses that were covered in mud after a landslide triggered by heavy monsoon rain in north India. The landslide that occurred early Sunday in Urla village in Himachal Pradesh state buried part of a highway, trapping two buses and at least three cars, said district official Sandeep Kadam. Soldiers used shovels and pickaxes to remove rocks, boulders and mud that covered the buses and pull out the bodies. It was not immediately clear how many people were traveling in the buses, Kadam said. Several houses were washed away in the torrential rain that hit the Mandi region in the Himalayan foothills.

Strong, but deep, earthquake shakes northern PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A strong but deep earthquake struck the northern Philippines early Friday afternoon but caused no apparent damage. Office workers and students in the capital, Manila, briefly evacuated their buildings after feeling the moderately strong swaying and shaking. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said no damage was expected because the 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck at a depth of 160 kilometers (99 miles). Deeper epicenters often cause less damage at the Earth's surface, though they can be widely felt. The epicenter was 16 kilometers (10 miles) southwest of Batangas province's resort town of Nasugbu, which is around 65 kilometers (40 miles) southwest of Manila.

Bomb blast kills 15 in southwestern Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's army says "terrorists" have targeted a military truck with a bomb killing eight soldiers and seven civilians in the southwestern city of Quetta. A military statement Saturday says the bomb also wounded 25 people, including 15 civilians. It says incendiary explosives were used in the blast that sparked fires in nearby vehicles. Sarfraz Bugti, the home minister for Baluchistan, said the blast took place near a private hospital but its nature is still being investigated. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. Baluchistan borders Iran and Afghanistan and has been the scene of a low level insurgency by Baloch separatists groups who want a greater share of the province's mineral and gas resources. Militant groups operating in the province have previously claimed responsibility for attacking security forces.

World

Death toll rises amid rioting over disputed vote in Kenya

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—In an escalation of Kenya's deadly election violence, police on Saturday fired live ammunition at rioters and used tear gas on vehicles carrying opposition officials trying to enter a Nairobi slum where they have strong support. A young girl was killed by a stray bullet, nine bodies with gunshot wounds were brought overnight to the capital's main morgue, and a watchdog group said police gunfire has killed 24 people since Tuesday's disputed vote.

AP

Residents look out from their balconies during clashes between police and protesters in the Mathare area of Nairobi, Kenya Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017.

The chaos in the Nairobi slums of Mathare and Kibera, as well as in the opposition stronghold of Kisumu city, contrasted with widespread calm—and celebrations in some areas - in the country of 45 million after Kenya's election commission said late Friday that President Uhuru Kenyatta won a second term. Protests, often violent, began soon after voting when Kenyatta's main challenger, Raila Odinga, alleged vote-rigging.

The government said life was returning to normal and that those challenging security forces were criminals intent on looting and destroying property. However, the police came under scrutiny for what the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, which monitors government institutions, described as the "unlawful and unacceptable" use of excessive force.

Seventeen of the two dozen people shot by police died in Nairobi, the commission said. It cited allegations of police breaking into homes, beating people, threatening them with rape and demanding money. The watchdog group also lamented "the destruction of private property by both civilians and allegedly by security personnel in the course of their duty."

Police shot and killed two people during riots by opposition supporters on the outskirts of Kisumu, a regional police commander, Leonard Katana, said Saturday. Another five people were injured by gunfire in Kisumu, Katana said.

In Mathare, where Odinga has significant support, police opened fire to disperse protesters who blocked roads and set up burning barricades. Associated Press photographers saw police charging demonstrators and firing live rounds and tear gas.

One Mathare resident, Wycliff Mokaya, told The Associated Press that his 9-year-old daughter was killed by a stray bullet while on the third-floor balcony of their home.

"I was watching her play with her friends when she suddenly fell down," Mokaya said. "She was my only hope."

Nine bodies with gunshot wounds were brought to the Nairobi morgue from Mathare, a mortuary official said Saturday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to the media.

An Associated Press photographer said police used tear gas on a large opposition convoy trying to enter the Kibera slum. Police also fired shots in the air.

The Kenya Red Cross said it helped a total of 93 people who were injured during the clashes since the election results were announced.

Police harassed and assaulted at least four journalists covering the violence, witnesses said.

The unrest followed a victory speech Friday in which Kenyatta, whose father was Kenya's first president after independence from British colonial rule, said he was extending a "hand of friendship" to the opposition.

Kenyatta won with a decisive 54 percent of the vote to nearly 45 percent for Odinga, but the bitter dispute over the integrity of the election process tempered what many Kenyans had hoped would be a celebration of democracy in a regional power known for its economic promise and long-term stability. The opposition said the election commission's database had been hacked and results were manipulated against Odinga.

The unrest also exposed divisions in a society where poverty and government corruption have angered large numbers of Kenyans, including those who have been protesting in the slums and see Odinga as a voice for their grievances.

Adding to the rift is ethnic loyalty. Kenyatta is widely seen as the representative of the Kikuyu people, the country's largest ethnic group, while Odinga is associated with the Luo group, which has never produced a head of state.

Iran lawmakers raise missile, Guard spending to challenge US

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's parliament overwhelmingly has voted to increase spending on its ballistic missile program and its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard in response to recent new American sanctions.

In a session Sunday, 240 lawmakers voted for the bill, with only one abstention. Iran's state-run IRNA news agency says 247 lawmakers were on hand in the session.

The bill calls for the Defense Ministry and the Guard to increase spending, without elaborating.

The back-and-forth sanctions come as U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened to renegotiate the nuclear deal Iran struck with world powers in 2015. That deal saw economic sanctions against Iran lifted in exchange for the Islamic Republic limiting its enrichment of uranium.

Iran meanwhile has launched ballistic missiles in tests, something it is allowed to do under the deal, despite American criticism.

Focus

NORTH KOREA still mastering how to deliver a nuke to US

By DEB RIECHMANN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. intelligence officials are pretty sure North Korea can put a nuclear warhead on an intercontinental missile that could reach the United States. But experts aren't convinced the bomb could make it all that way intact.

They cite lingering questions about North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's nuclear know-how.

"I don't think North Korea has a good measure of how accurate the missile is at this point," said Michael Elleman, an expert with the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "They don't know if the re-entry technologies will really hold up - whether the bomb will survive the trip."

North Korea has short-range missiles that can hit its neighbors. It has tested an intermediate one that could strike Guam, a U.S. territory, as well as a longer-range missile that could reach Hawaii and perhaps the U.S. West Coast. The intermediate and long-range missiles are still being developed and it's still questionable whether they can reliably strike targets.

The North must conduct more tests to master what is known as "re-entry" in missile parlance, experts believe. The process involves shielding a nuclear warhead from the high temperatures and force it faces when it re-enters the Earth's atmosphere at about 15,500 mph (7 kilometers a second).

"In principle, Kim Jong Un could hit the United States with a nuclear weapon," said Elleman, a former scientist at Lockheed Martin's Research and Development Laboratory who also worked as missile expert for U.N. weapons inspection missions. "In practice, I think they are probably a half-year to a full year away from having something that will work more often than it would fail."

Joseph Bermudez Jr., an internationally recognized expert on North Korean defense and intelligence affairs and ballistic missile development, agrees.

"Putting these things all together and making them work is extremely challenging, and they haven't yet demonstrated a capability to produce a reliable re-entry vehicle, which is what houses the actual nuclear device," he said. "Remember, they've only tested these systems very few times."

Still, Bermudez, said, North Korea is "on track" to figure it out.

U.S. officials also think it's just a matter of time before Kim's program fully matures.

National Intelligence Director Dan Coats told Congress in May that Kim has been photographed beside a nuclear warhead design and missile airframes to show that North Korea has warheads small enough to fit on a missile.

That same month, Lt. Gen Vincent Stewart, the Defense Intelligence Agency director, told lawmakers that while Kim must still work on the technical aspects of re-entry, it's only a "matter of enough trial and error to make that work. They understand the physics, so it's just a matter of design."

Coats and Stewart testified before North Korea conducted its first test of an intercontinental missile on July 4. On July 28, it conducted a second test of its long-range Hwasong-14 ICBM.

The second test flight was captured by a rooftop camera operated by Japan's NHK television on the northern island of Hokkaido. Elleman, who analyzed the video, concluded that it most likely "disintegrated" before splashdown, suggesting North Korea is still struggling with re-entry.

"I think it probably failed fairly late in the process," said John Schilling, a consultant with 38 North, a respected website on North Korea at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.

Schilling said the success of North Korean missiles also depend on the weight of the payload. That's the weight of the nuclear weapon plus its heat-shielding re-entry system. North Korea is able to make one that weighs between 1,100 and 1,300 pounds, or between 500 and 600 kilograms. One that size might reach West Coast targets, Schilling said. But North Korea would need to make one lighter to strike farther east.

"It needs to be light in order to achieve range, but it also needs to be built fairly tough to survive, and those two things are at odds with one another," Schilling said. "Too light is a problem in that the payload would be too fragile and won't survive the trip, particularly atmospheric re-entry at the far end."

On Tuesday, a news report said North Korea could now wed nuclear warheads with its missiles, including its longest-range ones that might be able to hit the continental United States. The nuclear advances were detailed in an official Japanese assessment and in a story by The Washington Post that cited U.S. intelligence officials and a confidential Defense Intelligence Agency report.

President Donald Trump is warning North Korea not to make any more threats or face "fire and fury like the world has never seen."

North Korea then announced a detailed plan to launch missiles toward the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam, a major military hub and home to U.S. bombers.

On Friday, Trump tweeted: "Military solutions are now fully in place, locked and loaded, should North Korea act unwisely."

Health & Fitness

DREAMSTIME/TNS

The most common cause of sleepiness is not sleeping long enough. Getting enough restful sleep is crucial for maintaining good health.

Still sleepy every morning? You may need a sleep test

Dear Mayo Clinic: I get between eight and nine hours of sleep most nights but still feel groggy in the morning. Would a sleep study help me figure out why I'm never rested?

A: A sleep test may be beneficial. However, before you seek medical attention, consider several things about sleepiness. The most common cause of sleepiness is not sleeping long enough. Getting enough restful sleep is crucial for maintaining good health. Research over the past decade has shown that healthy sleep is just as important as exercising regularly and eating a healthy diet. Most adults need between seven and nine hours of quality sleep to reap the health benefits.

When you don't get enough sleep, over time it can have serious health consequences. For example, a consistent lack of healthy sleep can raise your risk for high blood pressure and heart disease. People who don't get enough sleep have more difficulty staying at a healthy weight than those who do sleep well. Not getting adequate sleep also may increase a person's risk of depression, anxiety and substance abuse.

An interesting website put together by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website shows by city the proportion of adults who do not get at least seven hours of sleep. To learn more and to see if your city is listed, go to cdc.gov/500cities, and choose the category "unhealthy behaviors" and the measure "sleep."

While getting enough sleep is important, a regular sleep and wake pattern also is key. Recent studies show that an irregular schedule, such as when you go to bed and wake up later on weekends than weekdays, is associated with poorer health, worse mood and increased sleepiness and fatigue. Some studies show that this pattern of sleep, sometimes called "social jet lag," is associated with increased likelihood for heart disease. Keeping a regular sleep and wake schedule, along with sleeping at least seven hours per night, helps improve sleep quality and effectiveness.

In a situation like yours, where you feel like you're getting plenty of sleep but don't feel well-rested in the morning, it's possible that your morning grogginess could be a symptom of a treatable sleep disorder. Make an appointment to see a health care provider who specializes in sleep medicine. He or she can provide you with a comprehensive assessment of your situation that includes a discussion of your symptoms, a review of your medical history and a thorough physical exam.

Based on that evaluation, specific tests might be helpful. Those tests may or may not include a sleep study. If a sleep study is recommended, it may be conducted in a lab where you are monitored throughout the study. This type of sleep test is called a polysomnogram. It involves monitoring brain waves, muscle tone, airflow, blood oxygen level, heart rate and breathing during sleep. At other times, a home sleep apnea test can provide the needed information.

Seek care from a sleep center accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. Your health care provider will be able to help decide the best test for you and, then, based on the test results, establish your diagnosis. If you do need treatment for a sleep disorder, your health care provider can help you choose a treatment plan that will work best to accomplish your goals. Health care providers who are board-certified in sleep medicine are specially prepared to help you get the treatment you need and help you start feeling better. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS)***

Personal Trainer

What category of runner are you?

The New York Road Runners club uses these groupings to organize the 10-week running classes it offers its 300,000 members.

Beginner
Walk briskly for 20 minutes

Training goals
Run for 20 minutes

Advanced beginner
Run comfortably nonstop for 20 minutes

Run for 30 minutes or improve pace

Intermediate
Run 30 minutes at 10-11 minutes per mile (6-7 min./km)

Learn racing fundamentals

Advanced intermediate
Race 5 km (3.1 mi.) in 28-31 minutes

Basic competitive
Race 5 km (3.1 mi.) in 25-28 minutes

Competitive
Race 5 km (3.1 mi.) in 22-25 minutes

Racing workouts to improve speed, form, strength, endurance

Advanced competitive
Race 5 km (3.1 mi.) in 19-22 minutes

Super-advanced competitive
Race 5 km (3.1 mi.) in less than 19 minutes

Advanced workouts to improve speed, form, strength, endurance

Source: New York Road Runners
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Experts suggest eating a balanced meal a few hours before pumping iron or hitting the trail. Avoid fats, limit fiber and include a variety of natural carbs from grains, fruits and milk.

You've got the footwear. But, do you have the fuel for your workout?

Food is your body's fuel, so it's important to eat before exercise. Choosing the right nutrients at the right time can make your effort more effective.

"Carbohydrate is the source of that energy your muscles need," says Angie Murad, a wellness dietitian at Mayo Clinic's Healthy Living Program.

Murad says, if possible, eat a balanced meal a few hours before pumping iron or hitting the trail. Avoid fats, limit fiber and include a variety of natural carbs from grains, fruits and milk.

"For breakfast, you could have oatmeal with a little brown sugar and some raisins," explains Murad. "A glass of milk with it and some berries."

And if you've got less than an hour until your workout, focus solely on the carbs.

"That's the primary energy source," adds Murad.

She suggests a sports drink, a serving of your favorite fruit or even a small jam sandwich. And sports gels and gummies can also give a quick carb boost.

"I would recommend focusing more on foods first," says Murad. "But, if you're in a pinch, and you need something easy, they are options."

They're options for fuel to go along with the footwear. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS)***

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HEALTH IS WEALTH

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Life & Style

After 30 years, museum gets stolen piece by modern master

PHOENIX (AP)—More than three decades after thieves made off with a valuable painting from the University of Arizona Museum of Art, officials say they have recovered the long sought piece from an antique dealer in New Mexico.

Curators at the museum that was home to Willem de Kooning's "Woman-Ochre" spent years hoping to get it back after two people stole the painting the day after Thanksgiving in 1985.

That dream finally came true when furniture and antique dealer David Van Auker called the museum from Silver City, New Mexico. Marketing Manager Gina Compitello-Moore said Auker bought the painting at an estate sale and later began researching it when he read an article about the heist that depicted an identical looking piece.

"When I got the phone call, this is literally the phone call I've been dreaming of—is somebody calling my phone and saying I think I have your stolen painting and that's what he said," museum curator Olivia Miller said.

Miller said it really stood out to her when Van Auker mentioned damaging lines across the canvas that made it look as if it had been rolled up.

Miller said a former museum curator was in utter disbelief and elated when she told her the painting was recovered.

The oil painting by the Dutch-American abstract expressionist is one in an iconic series by de Kooning that explores the figure of a woman. The piece features de Kooning's signature broad paint strokes, depicting various colors across the female body.

Police have said a man and woman were the sole visitors the day the painting was stolen. They say the woman distracted a security officer by making small-talk while the man cut the painting from the large frame, leaving the edges of the canvas attached.

The FBI said its agents continue to investigate the theft.

Dr. Nancy Odegaard, a conservator with the university, said she used a tool kit, magnifying glass and an ultra violet lamp to meticulously examine the painting. Odegaard looked for verifying marks of damage and repair on the piece consistent with previous conservation reports.

Odegaard said she also compared the lines of cutting on the original and laid the cut portion on top.

"Then we started looking at where the edges would go," Odegaard said. "For me which was a really dramatic connection—a paint stroke that clearly went across both pieces." The conservator said the various clues showed it was a perfect match.

The museum also plans to bring in a de Kooning expert to examine the painting for further authentication.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†Jose Pangelinan Pangelinan

"Josen Inchick"

Born to Life on November 26, 1933
Called to Eternal rest on August 8, 2017

In his new life he now joins his:
Wife: Natividad M. Pangelinan
Father: Jesus Dela Cruz Pangelinan
Mother: Dolores Torres Pangelinan
In-laws: Louise/Santiago Mendiola

His memories will forever remain in the hearts of his:
Children:
Rita C./Joel Untalan & Children
Henry/Petra Cabrera & Children
Gilbert/Joan Cabrera & Children
Eloise C./†Victor Borja & Children
Edwin/Renee Cabrera & Children
Jose/Arlene Pangelinan & Children
Belta Pangelinan & Children
Elaine/Jose Manglona & Children
Louisa/Eric Hermoso & Children
Jesse/Ana Pangelinan & Children
Dolores M. Pangelinan

Sisters & Brother-in-Law:
Ana P. Cruz/†Silvestre Cruz
Rosa P. Aquiningoc/†Pacifico Aquiningoc
Teresa P. Kiyoshi/ Ignacio Kiyoshi
Carmen P. San Nicolas/†Odorico San Nicolas

Sister In-Law & Brother In-Law:
Alfonsina McMahon
†Benita M./†Ignacio Lizama
Maria M./Joaquin Castro
†Gregorio S. Mendiola
Cristancia M./†James Fleming
Ignacio S. Mendiola/Florence Sablan
Jacob S./Trisha Mendiola
Steven S. Mendiola/Ana Maria Hofschneider
Godfrey S. Mendiola/Liza Borja

God Children:
Ramon M. Dela Cruz
Jeffrey M. Hofschneider
Ben G. Adriano
Jose Aldan
Jose P. Cruz

Holy Rosary is said nightly at 8:00 p.m. at his residence in San Jose Village, Tinian. Funeral services will be on Wednesday, August 16, 2017. His remains will be escorted from the Tinian Health Center's Morgue to the San Jose Parish at 8:00 a.m. followed by responso then rosary. Mass of the Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by interment services at the Tinian Cemetery.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You for your thoughts and prayers.

Children and Family

Judge throws out suit in Taylor Swift trial, but ordeal isn't over

DENVER (AP)—Taylor Swift teared up and hugged her attorneys after a judge determined a former radio host did not prove she personally set out to have him fired for allegedly groping her at a photo op before a concert. But the singer's ordeal isn't over quite yet.

While U.S. District Judge William Martinez threw out David Mueller's case against Swift on Friday, identical allegations against her mother and her radio liaison are expected to go to jurors on Monday.

Mueller sued the three after Swift's team reported the alleged 2013 assault in Denver to his bosses. He is seeking up to $3 million, saying the allegation cost him his reputation and his job.

Swift countersued Mueller, saying she wanted a symbolic $1 and the chance to stand up for other women. The jury will still consider her assault claim.

"I couldn't be more proud to represent somebody like Taylor Swift who's willing to step up in a situation like this," attorney Douglas Baldridge said outside court Friday. He also expressed his gratitude for the judge.

Mueller's team didn't comment on the decision, which followed days of testimony from the singer and others and just before jurors were set to hear closing arguments.

Swift spent an hour on the witness stand Thursday defiantly recounting what she called a "despicable and horrifying and shocking" encounter before a concert.

"He stayed attached to my bare ass-cheek as I lurched away from him," she testified.

"It was a definite grab. A very long grab," she added in her testimony.

Swift's testy exchange with Mueller's attorney occasionally elicited chuckles—even from the six-woman, two-man jury. She got a laugh when she said her security guard saw Mueller "lift my skirt" but someone would have had to have been underneath her to see the actual groping—"and we didn't have anyone positioned there."

Son of Sam killer says he 'surrendered to dark forces'

NEW YORK (AP)—The "Son of Sam" killer who terrorized New York 40 years ago says he thought he was doing something "to appease the devil."

David Berkowitz told CBS News in an interview broadcast Friday that he "surrendered to those very dark forces" when he killed six people and wounded seven.

Thursday was the 40th anniversary of Berkowitz's Aug. 10, 1977 arrest.

CBS' Maurice Dubois interviewed Berkowitz at the prison where he is serving a life sentence.

The 64-year-old Berkowitz is now a born-again Christian.

He said he's "very sorry for what happened" and he wishes he could "go back and change things"

Dubois asked Berkowitz what he would say to his 23-year-old self.

Berkowitz says he would tell himself to "turn around before it's too late because destruction is coming."

Bruno Mars donates $1M from concert to Flint water crisis

NEW YORK (AP)—Bruno Mars said Saturday he is donating $1 million from his Michigan concert to aid those affected by the Flint water crisis.

The Grammy-winning star told the audience at his show in Auburn Hills, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) from Detroit, that he and tour promoter Live Nation are redirecting funds from the show to the charity The Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

Mars

In 2014, Flint switched water sources and failed to add corrosion-reducing phosphates, allowing lead from old pipes to leach into the water. Elevated levels of lead, a neurotoxin, were detected in children, and 12 people died in a Legionnaires' disease outbreak that experts suspect was linked to the improperly treated water.

"I'm very thankful to the Michigan audience for joining me in supporting this cause," Mars said in a statement. "Ongoing challenges remain years later for Flint residents, and it's important that we don't forget our brothers and sisters affected by this disaster."

Mars, who was born and raised in Hawaii, performed at the Palace of Auburn Hills during his sold-out 24K Magic World Tour. His latest album, "24K Magic," recently achieved double platinum status.

Val Kilmer visits Tombstone for Old West-themed event

TOMBSTONE, Ariz. (AP)—Val Kilmer rode through the streets of Tombstone in a horse-drawn wagon to the chants of "We love you Val!" on Saturday as the actor returned to the Old West town that was the setting of one of his most famous roles.

Kilmer came to Tombstone for the "Doc Holli-Days" event to celebrate the life of gunslinger Doc Holliday, whom Kilmer played in the 1993 movie "Tombstone." He also met with fans and was to attend a party to mark Holliday's birthday on Aug. 14.

Kilmer wore a cowboy hat, sunglasses and bright green shoes as he was led through town in the 1880s coach.

"Ladies and gentlemen might I please introduce one of the stars—if not the star, period—of our favorite movie and the object of our inaugural Doc Holli-Days, Val Kilmer," the public address announcer said as fans cheered and snapped up pictures.

Tombstone was once a bustling mining town that became synonymous with the Wild West following the shootout at the O.K. Corral involving Holliday and Wyatt Earp. The mines shut down years ago, but the town near the U.S.-Mexico border remains a popular tourist destination.

The town saw a surge in popularity after the hit 1993 movie "Tombstone," starring Kilmer, Kurt Russell and Sam Elliot. The movie was filmed at various locations in Arizona, but not in Tombstone.

Kilmer visited the town during the making of the movie but hadn't been back since.

Gunfight re-enactments are the event's big draw, but Kilmer will not participate in them, said Bruce Nielsen, president of the local Lions Club, which is organized the parade.

Many of the Doc Holli-Days events were sold out, generating concerns about crowd sizes. "I am concerned that the town is going to be overwhelmed," Nielsen said.

Doc Holli-Days is one of several weekend celebrations that Tombstone holds throughout the year, including Wyatt Earp Days and Helldorado Days.

Stan Lee to make appearance at Boston Comic Con

BOSTON (AP) — Comic creator Stan Lee will make the rounds at this weekend's Boston Comic Con.

Lee's Super Heroes propelled Marvel Comics to a leading position in the comic industry.

More than 60 comic artists are expected to attend the show at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. They include John Romita Jr. of "Suicide Squad," David Finch of "Batman," and Mike Zeck of "The Punisher."

Artist Drew Struzan also will be at the show. Struzan created more than 150 movie posters, including "Indiana Jones," ''Back to the Future" and the "Star Wars" series.

The three-day show ends Sunday.

Leaked email shows HBO negotiating with hackers

By MATT O'BRIEN and TALI ARBEL,
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON (AP)—Hackers this week released an email from HBO in which the company expressed willingness to pay them $250,000 as part of a negotiation over data swiped from HBO's servers.

The July 27 email was sent by John Beyler, an HBO executive who thanked the hackers for "making us aware" of previously unknown security vulnerabilities. The executive asked for a 1-week delay and said HBO was willing to make a "good faith" payment of $250,000, calling it a "bug bounty" reward for IT professionals rather than a ransom.

HBO declined to comment. A person close to the investigation confirmed the authenticity of the email, but said it was an attempt to buy time and assess the situation. The same hackers have subsequently released two dumps of HBO material and demanded a multi-million dollar ransom.

How bad is the hack?

Whether or not HBO ever intended to follow through with its $250,000 offer, the email raised questions Friday among security professionals about the importance of the data and whether HBO's reaction might encourage future attacks.

AP
This image released by HBO shows Nikolaj Coster-Waldau as Jamie Lannister in a scene from "Game of Thrones," which aired Sunday, Aug. 6. Sunday's airing was the series' most-watched ever, seen by 10.2 million viewers.

"It's interesting that they're spinning it as a bug bounty program," said Pablo Garcia, CEO of FFRI North America, based in Aliso Viejo, California. "They're being extorted. If it was a bug bounty, it'd be on the up and up."

Beyler's email to the hackers said the company was working "very hard" to review all the material they provided, and also trying to figure out a way to make a large transaction in bitcoin, the hackers' preferred payment method.

"You have the advantage of having surprised us," Beyler wrote. "In the spirit of professional cooperation, we are asking you to extend your deadline for one week."

A rough chronology

The first HBO hack became publicly known on July 31. Beyler's email, sent several days earlier, might have been an attempt to make the problem go away without too much bad publicity for HBO, said Sanjay Goel, a professor at the University at Albany and chairman of its information technology management department.

"Hackers are not in this game for $250,000; this probably took them a lot of time and effort," Goel said. "That's a very, very small amount in these kinds of negotiations."

Then, on Monday, hackers using the name "Mr. Smith" posted a fresh cache of stolen HBO files online, and demanded that the network pay a ransom of several million dollars to prevent further such releases.

The leaks included scripts from "Game of Thrones" episodes and a month's worth of email from the account of HBO's vice president for film programming. There were also internal documents, including a report of legal claims against the network and job offer letters to top executives.

Hollywood in the crosshairs

HBO has said that it is working with law enforcement and cybersecurity firms to investigate the attack, which is the latest to hit a Hollywood business. In April, a hacker claimed to have released episodes of Netflix's "Orange is the New Black" ahead of their official launch date.

The leaks so far have fallen well short of the chaos inflicted on Sony in 2014.

But paying ransoms to hackers can be dangerous because it shows that being a bad-guy hacker is a good business, said cybersecurity expert Oren Falkowitz, CEO of Redwood City, California-based Area 1 Security. Companies would be better off investing in preventing email spear-fishing attempts and other hacking techniques, he said.

Husband gives up smoking, but his drinking persists

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I am married to a great guy. We've been together 27 years, so I know him well. He recently stopped smoking after 30 years of nicotine addiction. He did it cold turkey, and he's been smoke-free for three months now. I'm proud of him and tell him so.

The problem is, when he drinks he gets drunk—which I'm used to—but then he starts saying (sometimes belligerently) that he wants a cigarette badly. I don't know how to respond to this. I continue praising him for quitting and point out the health benefits that are already obvious—his breathing, returned senses, etc.—but it's getting old.

Should I continue to say helpful things or just ignore him when he's drunk?

DUMBFOUNDED IN DALLAS

DEAR DUMBFOUNDED: Try this. Tell him calmly that his craving for a cigarette is normal, particularly if he used to smoke while consuming alcohol. Reassure him that with time the craving will lessen, and continue to reinforce that he did himself a huge favor by mustering up the willpower to quit. Tell him you know it wasn't easy and that the longer he resists the urge for a nicotine fix, the easier it will be for him to stay smoke-free.

The fact that he becomes "belligerent" when he drinks should be a sign to you that he probably shouldn't be drinking either. Instead of keeping him company when he's in his cups, consider leaving to attend an Al-Anon meeting. It's a supportive organization created for friends and family members who are affected by a loved one's alcohol consumption. It isn't difficult to find a meeting. Just go to al-anon.org.

DEAR ABBY: I was in a relationship with a man for a year and a half. We got along great. We never argued, and we had a healthy sexual relationship.

You know the saying, "Actions speak louder than words"? All the actions were there -- he took me on amazing vacations, introduced me to all of his friends and family. But during all our time together, he never once expressed how he felt about me. He never even called me "Honey," or "Babe."

About a month ago, I told him how I felt. I came right out and asked if he loved me or had any kind of romantic feelings for me. He ignored my question! I guess he didn't want to hurt me more by saying no. Two weeks later, he broke up with me.

I have been divorced for five years, while he has never been married or had a live-in girlfriend. He said his reason for breaking up was he felt our relationship was good but not great (!) and he didn't think it ever would be. This is painful, but I can't help holding onto hope. Should I just give up and move on?

GOOD, BUT NOT GREAT

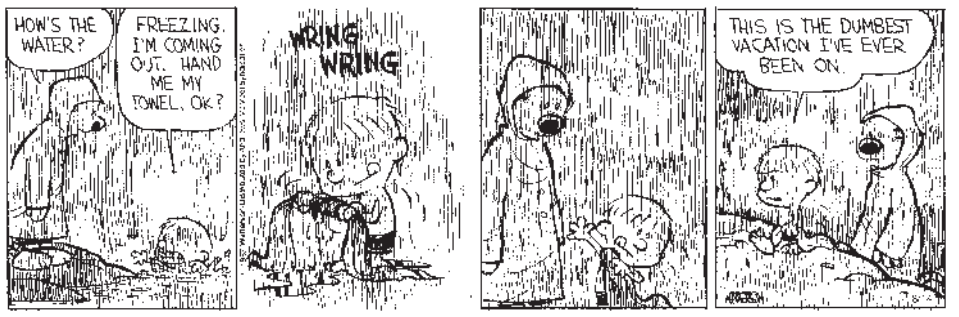
DEAR G.B.N.G.: Yes, for your own sake, you must. Give him credit for having been honest with you, but if after a year and a half he wasn't able to summon up any romantic feelings for you, you must accept that it isn't going to happen. Moving on may be painful for a while, but you will be doing yourself a big favor. Start now.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. B

Pastimes

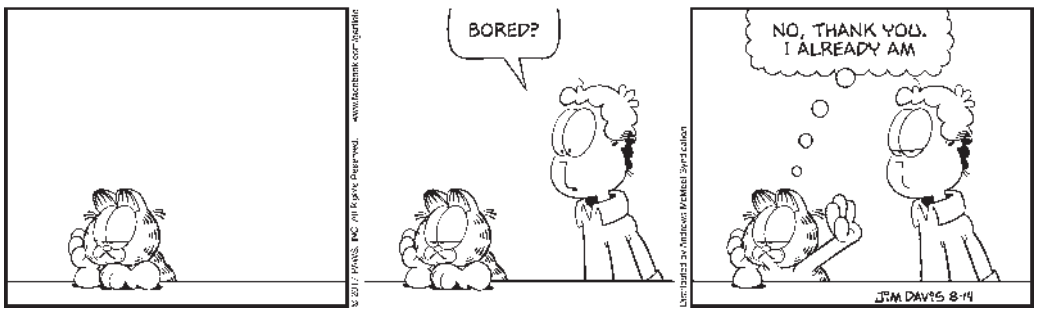
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



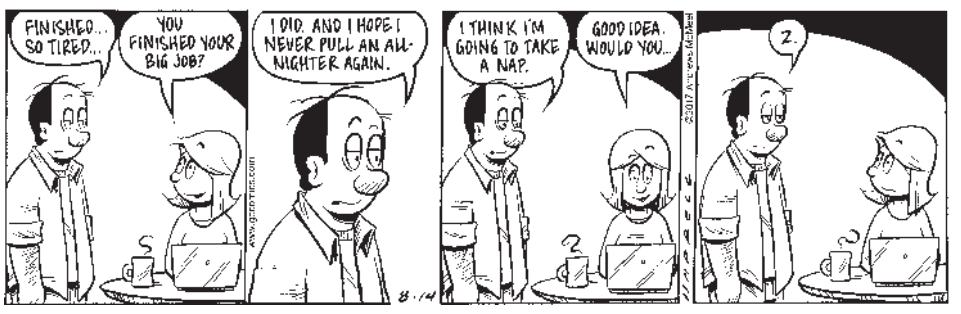
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



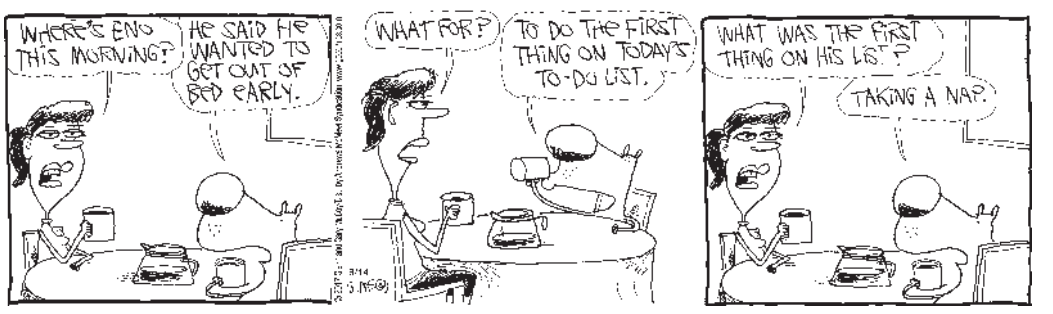
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


FINISHED... SO TIRED..
YOU FINISHED YOUR BIG JOB?
I DID. AND I HOPE I NEVER PULL AN ALL-NIGHTER AGAIN.
I THINK I'M GOING TO TAKE A NAP.
GOOD IDEA. WOULD YOU...
Z

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WHERE'S ENO THIS MORNING?
HE SAID HE WANTED TO GET OUT OF BED EARLY.
WHAT FOR?
TO DO THE FIRST THING ON TODAY'S TO-DO LIST.
WHAT WAS THE FIRST THING ON HIS LIST?
TAKING A NAP.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

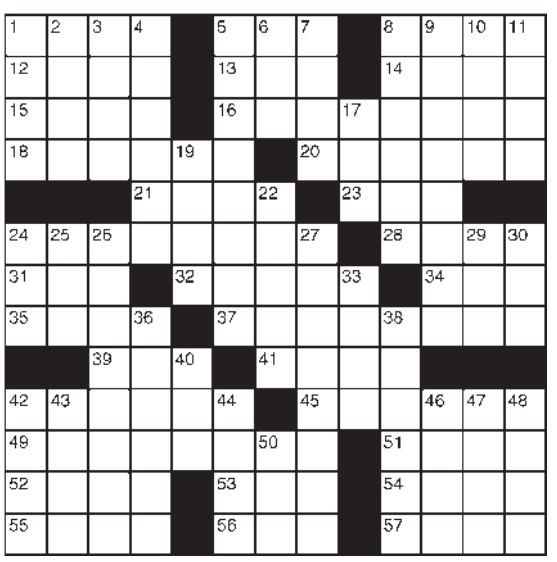
ACROSS
1 Tart flavor
5 Center
8 Halt
12 Curved molding
13 Rock's Brian
14 Undraped
15 Authentic
16 Grease monkey
18 Jordan's neighbor
20 High nests
21 Clone
23 Director Craven
24 Sanitary
28 Darkens
31 Docs' org.
32 Seized vehicles
34 Small battery
35 Mideastern strip
37 Mocking
39 Greek H
41 Streetcar
42 Beauty parlors
45 Barely manage
49 Greek
51 Margarita garnish
52 Hurler Hershiser
53 Play part
54 "NFL Live" channel
55 Pitch
56 Gloomy guy
57 Try out

DOWN
1 Actress Spelling
2 Mellows
3 Close
4 Trattoria desserts
5 Heights of fashion?
6 French article
7 — Raton
8 Entrapped
9 Sfax resident
10 Garfield's pal
11 Chest muscles, briefly
17 Chop
19 Ornamental jug
22 Attack, puppy-style
24 Witch
25 Singer Sumac
26 Graceful runners
27 Fixes typos
29 Avril follower
30 Pouch
33 Mt. Rushmore's state
36 Coral isles
38 Brunch fare
40 Chemical suffix
42 Attempt
43 Plane-related
44 Unforeseen problem
46 French river
47 Diamond arbiters
48 Bivouac shelter
50 Hosp. area

Solution time: 26 mins.

A	C	E		S	E	G	A		M	A	I	L
R	O	T		E	L	E	V		A	N	N	A
A	M	A	R	I	L	L	O		Z	I	N	C
B	F	I	I	F		C	H	F				
			D	E	N		A	U	S	T	I	N
M	O	P	E	D		A	D		O	O	O	
A	R	E	S		H	K	O		P	E	I	E
I	C	E		B	O	A		N	A	S	A	L
D	A	L	L	A	S		A	C	N			
			A	R	E		O	R	A	N	G	E
P	A	I	N		B	E	A	U	M	O	N	T
O	I	N	K		U	R	N	S		R	A	T
P	L	A	Y		D	A	S	H		A	W	E

Friday's answer 8 - 14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tim Tebow, 30; Mila Kunis, 34; Halle Berry, 51; Steve Martin, 72.

Happy Birthday: Don't start something you can't finish. Stay centered and concentrate on the changes you want to see happen this year. Be considerate of others and seek support and approval if the changes you want to make are going to affect others. Think big, but stick to a budget you can afford. Discipline will be required when temptation sets in. Your numbers are 4, 12, 17, 24, 28, 33, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't procrastinate about what you are doing to earn a living or figuring out how to raise your income. Work hard and use your intelligence and skills to get ahead. If someone tries to pressure or bully you, walk away. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Being productive is the best way to stay out of trouble. Don't hold discussions with people who don't share your opinion. Look inward and make personal improvements. A child or friend is likely to cause an emotional disturbance. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Keeping secrets will be in your best interest. You may like to chat, but right now is not the time to share personal information. Say little and stick to the truth when asked a direct question. Changes at home should encourage productivity. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't feel the need to help someone with your time and effort if they don't deserve it. Look out for your own interests and do things that allow you to express your creativity and use your skills to your own benefit. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Decide how much you want something and whether the consequences will be too great. Sort through any differences and opposition that comes along. You may crave change, but be patient before you make a move. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Live, learn and have a little fun. Socialize with people you find inspiring or attend an event that will influence your choices through the information you gather. Share ideas and form unique partnerships. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): When it comes to spending or investing, don't let others decide what you should do with your cash. Have a solid plan and maintain the strength and discipline to say "no" to an unsuitable deal. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Share information, feelings and intentions. Partnerships will need nurturing and understanding, not criticism and complaining. Anger solves nothing, but time and patience will. Romance is encouraged and will improve your future plans. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Be practical when dealing with matters that can influence how you earn your living. Pick up new skills and information that will help you secure a raise or better position. Education or changing your location will pay off. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Be careful how you share emotional matters. Not everyone will respond well to what you have to say, especially if it concerns money, health issues or legal affairs. Diplomacy will be required. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take a close look at your personal documents and update everything. Medical issues will escalate due to neglect. Don't wait around if you feel like something is wrong. Emotional encounters will lead to stress. Make healthy choices and changes. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You will attract attention with your unique ideas and keen sense of awareness. Let your insight draw you to new people and projects. Input from loved ones will encourage you to make changes to your appearance. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are persistent, impulsive and focused. You are popular and proud.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8			1	4		5		
	6			8				
			5			7		8
7		3		6				
2	9		7		1		6	3
				9		1		4
3		7			9			
				3			4	
		6		7	4			2

Difficulty Level ★ 8/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

1	5	4	8	9	3	2	7	6
6	7	2	1	5	4	9	8	3
3	8	9	2	6	7	5	4	1
5	6	7	3	1	2	4	9	8
9	2	3	6	4	8	1	5	7
4	1	8	5	7	9	6	3	2
7	4	6	9	3	1	8	2	5
2	3	5	4	8	6	7	1	9
8	9	1	7	2	5	3	6	4

Difficulty level ★★★★ 8/14

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

RICE NOODLES Solution: 10 letters

N	S	H	F	T	R	A	N	S	P	A	R	E	N	T
I	U	O	R	F	R	O	Z	E	N	W	O	R	B	E
P	O	F	A	V	B	U	P	O	U	L	T	R	Y	R
R	N	U	G	B	E	P	O	S	B	R	E	H	N	I
E	I	N	I	N	E	R	I	L	I	H	C	C	O	Y
V	T	R	L	R	O	N	M	A	F	T	H	R	O	A
L	A	I	E	H	O	E	H	R	N	A	E	A	P	K
I	L	T	F	O	S	T	H	I	I	O	W	T	O	I
S	E	C	D	S	D	E	A	C	A	C	Y	S	A	C
O	G	L	O	A	A	R	R	C	E	M	E	N	H	H
Y	E	T	P	T	D	O	O	F	A	E	S	R	K	I
A	S	K	A	L	A	I	F	U	N	A	H	O	C	N
B	E	A	N	E	P	L	N	I	H	T	L	C	I	E
S	A	L	T	A	S	T	E	Y	R	F	R	I	T	S
F	L	A	T	I	F	E	E	B	U	R	M	E	S	E

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Bean, Beef, Brown, Burmese, Chee Cheong Fun, Chewy, Chili, Chinese, Coat, Cornstarch, Drain, Flat, Flour, Fragile, Fresh, Frozen, Gelatinous, Heat, Herbs, Ho Fun, Khao Poon, Lai Fun, Laksa, Meat, Noodle, Pad Thai, Pepper, Poultry, Ribbon, Rice, Salt, Seafood, Silver Pin, Soft, Soy, Stick, Stir-fry, Tapioca, Taste, Teriyaki, Thin, Toss, Transparent

Last Friday's Answer: Gossip

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for a Federal Government Contract in Saipan to assist with the management of Construction project(s) as owner Rep.

The candidate should have a degree in Engineering, Architecture, Construction Management or any related field with at Least 5 Years of experience Managing Federal or Commercial construction projects. The candidate should have experience with Cost Estimation, Quality assurance, Reviewing of Project Plans/Design Reviews and knowledge of AutoCAD.

Interested candidates please send your resume by e-mail to anil.kumar@gencosystems.com or by fax at 703-234-1211
For any questions please call 703-234-5261

Gemkell Saipan Corp. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Boutique Supervisor (1)
High School Diploma or a GED with one (1) to two (2) years of related or applicable work and management experience in luxury retail environment. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Must be familiar with the POS System.

Sales Associate, full-time (3)
High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

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REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Bryce Harper injured in Nationals' win over Giants

WASHINGTON (AP)— When Bryce Harper clutched at his left knee after slipping on first base, the stadium went silent and Dusty Baker feared the worst.

Less than a year after watching catcher Wilson Ramos tear the ACL in his right knee on a noncontact play after a rain delay, Baker just hoped it wasn't that bad. But the uncertainty over Harper's injury overshadowed the Washington Nationals' 3-1 victory over the San Francisco Giants on Saturday night.

Baker said Harper hyperextended the knee and was scheduled to have an MRI.

"The same reaction everybody had—silence goes over the crowd," Baker said. "You're just thinking, 'Please, Lord, don't let it be serious.'"

Baker went so far as to ask for prayers from baseball fans for the health of one of the sport's top players and a potential NL MVP candidate. Harper, the 2015 MVP who is hitting .326 with 29 home runs and 87 RBIs as the most fearsome hitter in the league this season, was not made available to speak to reporters after the game but could be seen walking with a limp.

The injury came as it was raining about 20 minutes into the game after a three-hour delay. Harper tried to run out a grounder to the right side and though he avoided colliding with first baseman Ryder Jones or Giants pitcher Jeff Samardzija, he slipped on first base, which was still wet.

"It didn't look good," Jones said. "I hope he's all right. It's just one of those freak plays where you kind of thought there would be a collision and there wasn't and that might be part of it, too."

The result of the game meant little for Washington, which leads the NL East by 14 ½ games, or San Francisco, which is out of contention. Baker said the teams were "at the mercy of the schedule" with Major League Baseball in control and the Giants in town for the last time this season.

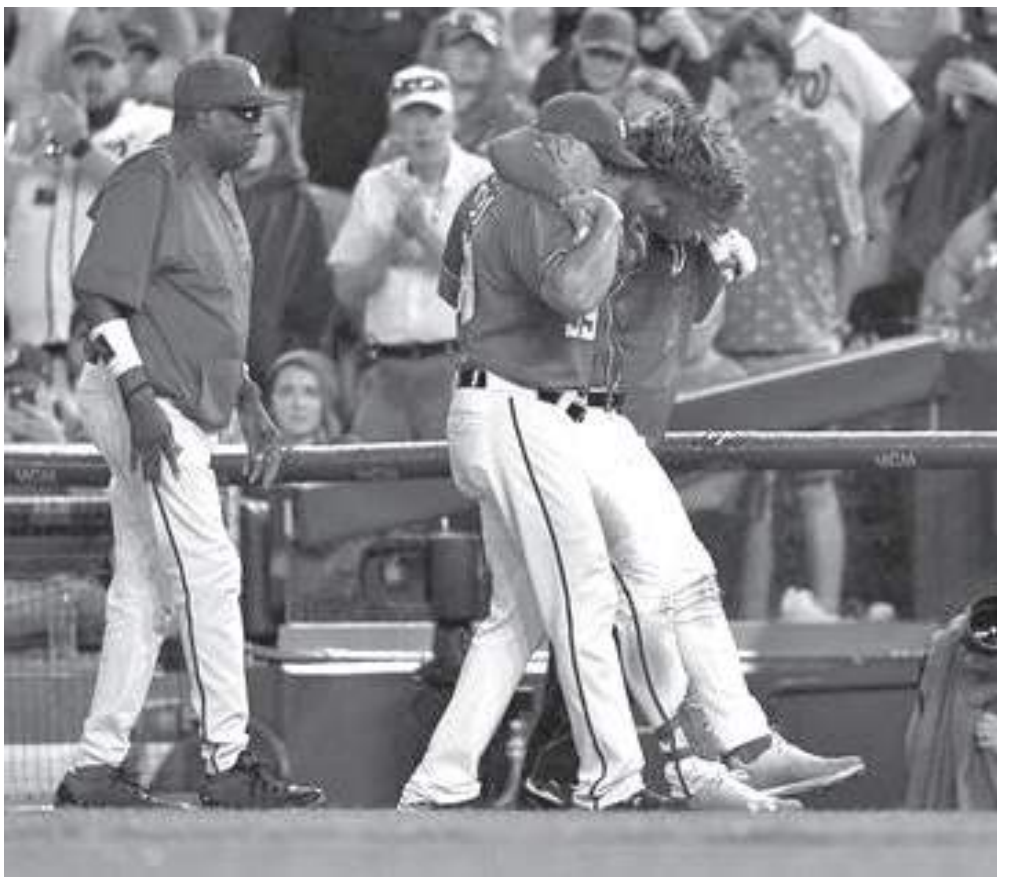
With Harper out, the Nationals got their offense in the form of RBI doubles from Ryan Zimmerman and Adam Lind, and an RBI single from Daniel Murphy off Samardzjia (7-12).

Right-hander Edwin Jackson (3-2) allowed one earned run on five hits and struck out five in six innings before giving way to Washington's newfound lockdown bullpen trio of Brandon Kintzler, Ryan Madson and Sean Doolittle.

RED SOX 10, YANKEES 5

Rookie Andrew Benintendi rocketed a pair of three-run homers off All-Star Luis Severino as Boston bounced back from a tough loss to rough up New York.

A day after blowing a late lead, the AL East leaders battered Severino for a career-worst 10 runs. Drew Pomeranz pitched the Red Sox to their ninth win in 10 games and restored their 4½-game lead over New York.



AP

Washington Nationals' Bryce Harper, second from right, is helped off the field after he was injured during the first inning of a baseball game against the San Francisco Giants, Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017, in Washington.

Indians 3, Rays 0

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Jay Bruce drove in his first two runs for Cleveland and Mike Clevinger struck out nine.

Bruce, acquired in a trade from the New York Mets on Wednesday, drove in the first run with a two-out fly ball that dropped for a double between left fielder Corey Dickerson and third baseman Trevor Plouffe in the first inning.

After leading off the third with a double, Francisco Lindor scored on Chris Archer's two-out wild pitch to make it 2-0.

Bruce drove in another run with a single in the fifth after Jose Ramirez's leadoff double.

Dodgers 6, Padres 3

In Los Angeles, Corey Seager's bases-loaded single led to three runs while Cody Bellinger and Chris Taylor added solo homers as Los Angeles rallied from a sixth-inning deficit to beat San Diego.

With their 27th win in 32 games, the Dodgers improved the best record in the major leagues to 82-34, on pace for 115 wins.

Trailing 3-1 in the sixth, the Dodgers loaded the bases when Chase Utley doubled between walks to Yamani Grandal and Yasiel Puig from Craig Stammen (0-2). Seager followed with a tying single to right as Yasil Puig took third, and when Seager overran first and got caught in a rundown, Puig broke for home and with a headfirst slide beat the throw from first baseman Wil Myers.

Cardinals 6, Braves 5

In St. Louis, Randal Grichuk and Paul DeJong homered and St. Louis stretched its winning streak to eight games.

Carlos Martinez (9-9) tossed six solid innings and also drove in a run for the Cardinals, who moved within 1/2 game of the first-place Chicago Cubs in the NL Central.

Brandon Phillips homered for Atlanta, which lost its fifth in a row.

The eight-game run is the longest for St. Louis since the Cardinals won eight in a row April 28-May 5, 2015.

Grichuk hit his 15th homer of the season in the second to tie the game 2-all. He also added a double in a three-run outburst in the fifth.

DeJong led off the seventh with his team-high 17th home run.

Blue Jays 7, Pirates 2

In Toronto, Chris Rowley pitched 5 1/3 innings to win his major league debut while Jose Bautista scored two runs as Toronto beat Pittsburgh.

A former first lieutenant in the United States Army, Rowley (1-0) missed all of the 2014 and 2015 minor league seasons while on active service, including a stint in Bulgaria.

The right-hander, who began the season at Double-A, allowed one run five hits. He walked one and struck out three. The only run off Rowley came in the second when Josh Bell hit a leadoff triple and scored on a two-out hit by Jordy Mercer.

Mercer added a solo homer off Leonel Campos in the ninth.

Rangers 8, Astros 3

In Arlington, Texas, Adrian Beltre had three hits with three RBIs after new Hall of Fame catcher Ivan Rodriguez acknowledged his 3,000-hit milestone as Texas handed AL-leading Houston a season-high fifth straight loss.

An RBI double and two-run single from Beltre came after Rodriguez paid tribute to the 38-year-old third baseman during a pre-game ceremony to retire Rodriguez's No. 7. Beltre's 3,000th hit came on the same day Rodriguez was inducted into the Hall of Fame two weeks ago.

Brett Nicholas hit a three-run homer, his first of the season, for a 3-0 lead in the second inning after a 21-minute rain delay in the first. Mike Napoli had a solo shot off Mike Fiers (7-7), who has allowed six home runs in his past two starts against the Rangers.

Angels 6, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Luis Valbuena's two-run homer in the seventh inning pulled Los Angeles even before Albert Pujols added a two-run double in the eighth and the Angels rallied to beat Seattle.

For the third straight game, the Mariners saw their bullpen problems fester while trying to hold a lead. Valbuena's homer came off reliever Casey Lawrence and after the Mariners got six surprisingly strong innings out of starter Erasmo Ramirez.

Tony Zych (5-3) ran into even more trouble in the eighth. Zych walked the first two batters before giving up Pujols' double to the gap. Kole Calhoun singled and Andrelton Simmons' sacrifice fly scored Pujols for a three-run lead. Seattle's bullpen has allowed 13 runs in the first three games of the series.

Tigers 12, Twins 11

In Detroit, Justin Upton hit a two-run homer off Matt Belisle in the ninth inning to give Detroit a win after the Tigers wasted a five-run lead and then overcame a five-run deficit.

After James McCann hit a grand slam in a five-run first inning against Jose Berrios, the Twins tied the score 5-5 in the third, then scored twice in the fourth, once in the fifth and three times in the sixth for an 11-6 lead.

Upton hit a sacrifice fly in the seventh, and McCann hit into a run-scoring forceout in the eighth and scored on Jose Iglesias' home run against Trevor Hildenberger that cut Detroit's gap to 11-10.

Shane Greene (3-2) escaped a bases-loaded jam when he struck out Miguel Sano on a slider. Mikie Mahtook singled against Belisle (0-2) starting the bottom half and Upton drove a high fastball into the left-field seats.

Marlins 4, Rockies 3

In Miami, Giancarlo Stanton continued his power surge with his 41st homer and drove in three runs in Miami's victory over Colorado.

Stanton went 3 for 4 with two runs scored and needs one more home run to tie Gary Sheffield for the Marlins' single-season mark set in 1996.

Stanton has hit 20 home runs in his last 32 games. The last player to accomplish the feat in the same season was the Los Angeles Dodgers' Shawn Green in 2002, according to STATS LLC.

Royals 5, White Sox 4

In Chicago, Melky Cabrera hit a go-ahead, two-run homer against his former team in the eighth inning as Kansas City beat Chicago to stop a five-game losing streak.

Cabrera, acquired from Kansas City on July 30, homered with one out off Aaron Bummer (1-3) and drove in Lorenzo Cain, who led off the inning with a walk and Chris Beck. Cabrera has an eight-game hitting streak. Scott Alexander (3-3) won after allowing a two-run, two-out single in the seventh to Leury Garcia that put Chicago ahead 4-3.

Orioles 12, Athletics 5

In Oakland, California, Tim Beckham hit a two-run double in his second plate appearance of the first inning as Baltimore matched its biggest frame of the season with a seven-run first inning.

Dylan Bundy (12-8) matched his career high with 10 strikeouts, equaling the number from his previous outing, to win his third straight start and fourth consecutive decision. The right-hander allowed three runs and seven hits with three walks as the Orioles won for only the second time in five games.

Adam Jones drove in three runs for Baltimore.

Diamondbacks 6, Cubs 2

In Phoenix, Patrick Corbin pitched 6 2/3 scoreless innings and David Peralta hit an inside-the-park home run as Arizona cut Chicago's NL Central lead over St. Louis to a percentage point.

Jon Lester (8-7) allowed four runs — three earned — and seven hits in six innings as the Cubs lost for the seventh time in 10 games.

Chicago led the division by 5½ games before play on Aug. 2, but the Cardinals have closed with eight straight victories, their longest winning streak in two years.

Phillies 3, Mets 1

In Philadelphia, Aaron Nola held an opponent to two runs or fewer for his 10th straight start and Freddy Galvis had a go-ahead single during a fifth-inning rally as Philadelphia beat veteran-shedding New York.

Nola (9-7) gave up one run and two hits in seven innings with eight strikeouts and two walks. He is 6-2 with a 1.71 ERA in his last 10 starts and is the only Phillies pitcher since 1900 to have 10 straight starts of at least six innings while allowing two runs or fewer, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Cesar Hernandez and Tommy Joseph also had RBIs for the Phillies, who won despite just five hits. Odubel Herrera extended his career-best hitting streak to 15 games with an eighth-inning single.

Brewers 6, Reds 5, 10 innings

In Milwaukee, Eric Sogard scampered home with the winning run on a wild pitch in the bottom of the 10th inning as Milwaukee snapped a six-game losing streak.

Sogard started the rally with a one-out double off Reds reliever Tim Adleman (5-10). After Manny Pina flew out to center field, Jesus Aguilar and Eric Thames drew walks to load the bases.

An 0-2 curveball then bounced away from Reds catcher Tucker Barnhart, allowing Sogard to slide in just ahead of Adleman's tag attempt.

Kisner survives wild finish to take PGA lead

AP
Kevin Kisner walks across the bridge on the 18th hole during the third round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at the Quail Hollow Club Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017, in Charlotte, N.C.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Even after his shot bounced high off a concrete bridge over a creek, Kevin Kisner wasn't in the clear at the PGA Championship.

His golf ball was buried in thick grass on a hill above the water. As he looked across to the 18th green at Quail Hollow, wondering how he could even keep it on the green, a leaderboard reminded him of how many players were suddenly in the mix at the final major of the year.

Kisner managed to keep the damage to a minimum in a calamity-filled final hour Saturday.

More importantly, he managed to keep the lead.

Two holes after hitting into the water on No. 16 to lose a two-shot lead, Kisner chopped out of the cabbage-like lie to the other side of the 18th green, then navigated a super slick 45-foot putt to close range to escape with bogey and a 1-over 72, giving him a one-shot lead over Hideki Matsuyama and Chris Stroud.

"I'm happy I'm in the position I'm in," Kisner said. "I had a chance to run away from guys and take people out of the tournament that were four or five, six back. And I didn't do it. Now I'm in a dogfight tomorrow, and I have to be prepared for that."

If the closing stretch taught him something, it was to prepare for anything.

Jason Day can attest to that. He wasted a remarkable rally with a peculiar decision to hit a shot from behind a tree. His feet slipped on the pine straw and the ball wound up in a waist-high flower bed. What followed was a penalty drop, a shot to the rough, another short of the green and a quadruple-bogey 8 that most likely ended his chances. He shot 77 and was in no mood to discuss the round.

Stroud three-putted the last two holes for bogey, one from off the 17th green. He managed a 71 and was in the final group Sunday, not bad for a guy who wasn't even eligible for the PGA Championship until he won his first PGA Tour event six days ago.

"It's just a dream come true to be here," he said.

Kisner had the lead going into the final round, a great spot to pursue his first major championship. He just doesn't like what he sees in his rearview mirror, where the players are a lot closer than they once appeared.

Matsuyama made only one birdie and wasted two good scoring chances on the back nine. He had a dull finish, which on this day allowed him to make up ground. With five straight pars at the end, he had a 73 and was one shot behind in his bid to deliver Japan its first major.

"I'm disappointed the way I played today," Matsuyama said. "However, I'm happy to just to be one stroke back and still have a chance."

Justin Thomas, the son of a PGA professional, had the right formula. He didn't drop a shot over the last 12 shots and shot a 69 to finish just two shots behind along with Louis Oosthuizen, who saved par on the 18th with a bold shot for a 71.

It was everyone else in the hunt that fell apart.

Rickie Fowler, quietly lurking with four birdies in an eight-hole stretch, failed to birdie the par-5 15th—the easiest hole at Quail Hollow—and followed with a three-putt bogey on the 16th, an 8-iron into the water for double bogey on the 17th, and a three-putt bogey from just over 20 feet on the 18th. That gave him a 73, and after getting within three shots, he trailed by six.

Paul Casey also was in position until his shot on 18 missed by a fraction and settled in the rough above the hole. His chip ran off the green, and he made double bogey. Casey played the final three holes in 4 over and shot 74. He was seven behind.

The shocker was Day, the former No. 1 player in the world and a PGA champion two years ago. He looked more like Jean Van de Velde, famous for his collapse in the 1999 British Open, except that Day was standing amid bushes of flowers instead of knee deep in the burn at Carnoustie.

Of the 15 players who remained under par, Oosthuizen is the only one who has won a major, and that was seven years ago. The South African had his own problems. His right arm tightened up on the front nine and he required a therapist to work on it. Then he hit a root on a shot with an 8-iron and bent the club, meaning he couldn't use it when he needed it late in his round.

He still has a chance to add to that British Open title at St. Andrews in 2010.

"It's the type of golf course you don't have to go out and make birdies. You just need to keep everything together," Oosthuizen said.

Kisner did that as well as anyone for so much of the day. He was rarely out of position except on the par-5 seventh when he hung a 3-iron to the right and near the hazard. He caught a decent lie and chipped close for his first birdie. And after ending a streak of 25 holes without a bogey, he two-putted the 14th green from 100 feet and two-putted the 15th green from 20 feet, both for birdies, to stretch his lead to two shots as players behind him were fading.

Kisner joined them with mistakes of his own, though he managed to keep his emotions in check.

"As soon as you think you're on top of things, it finds a way to kick you right in the face," Kisner said.

He was speaking about golf. He could have just as easily been talking about the final stretch at Quail Hollow.

NBA BRIEFS

Kings' Randolph arrested on pot charge at LA housing project

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Veteran NBA forward Zach Randolph was arrested on a marijuana charge after several police cars were vandalized when a large gathering became unruly at a Los Angeles housing project, authorities said Thursday. Randolph, 36, was taken into custody late Wednesday on suspicion of possessing marijuana with intent to sell, according to Los Angeles Police Department Officer Liliana Preciado. "The charges are false and misleading," Randolph's agent and attorney Raymond Brothers told The Associated Press on Thursday. "We're looking at all options to resolve this matter." Police on patrol observed a crowd drinking, smoking pot, blasting music and blocking streets at the Nickerson Gardens project in Watts, Preciado said. Officers called for backup when the crowd grew and people began throwing bottles and rocks. Five police cars and one sheriff's vehicle ended up with smashed windows and slashed tires. No officers were hurt. Officers also arrested Stanley Walton, 43, on suspicion of carrying a gun as an ex-convict, Preciado said. She didn't know if Walton has an attorney. Police recovered two guns, impounded two vehicles and seized narcotics, Preciado said. Randolph, a 16-year league veteran, spent eight seasons with the Memphis Grizzlies before signing with the Sacramento Kings in July. The Kings issued a statement Thursday saying the team was aware of the situation and would have no further comment at this time. The two-time NBA All-Star played for Michigan State University before being drafted in 2001 by the Portland Trail Blazers. Randolph also played for the New York Knicks and Los Angeles Clippers.

Warriors star Kevin Durant apologizes for India comments

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Basketball star Kevin Durant has issued a half-hearted apology for calling India "20 years behind" and several other comments about the Asian country. The Golden State Warriors forward tweeted on Friday that he's "sorry that my comments about India were taken out of context." Durant said he plans to return to India to run more basketball camps and meant no disrespect. Durant traveled to India recently and spoke about the trip in an interview with The Athletic website published this week. In the interview, Durant marveled at the "cows in the street, monkeys running around everywhere, hundreds of people on the side of the road" and visible poverty. "It's a country that's 20 years behind in terms of knowledge and experience," he said, adding that his visit to the Taj Mahal was eye-opening and not what he'd imagined. He'd expected the monument to be "holy ground, super protected, very, very clean," but instead as he drove up it reminded him of places where he grew up, he said. "Mud in the middle of the street, houses were not finished but there were people living in them. No doors. No windows... stray dogs and then, boom, Taj Mahal, one of the seven wonders of the world."

76ers to play Celtics in January in London

LONDON (AP)—The Boston Celtics and Philadelphia 76ers will travel to London in January for a game at The O2 arena. The Sixers are the home team for the Jan. 11 game. Tickets for the NBA London Game 2018 game go on sale in October. The game will mark the NBA's eighth regular-season game in London and the Celtics' second game in the capital, having played a preseason game against the Minnesota Timberwolves in 2007. The 76ers will be playing their second game in the UK and first game in London, having previously played a preseason game in Manchester against the Oklahoma City Thunder in 2013. Because the Sixers are the home team, season-ticket holders with automatic payment plans will not be charged for one game. Season-ticket holders who have paid in full can request a full refund or roll over the charges for future game purchases. The Sixers went 28-54 last season and the Celtics had the best record in the Eastern Conference at 53-29.

Momshies try to catch up in Ladies League

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Destroyer Knights continue to top the Chichirika C Division of the SEDA Bud Light 2017 league.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Naked Fish Ridin'Darrty remain on top of the A Division in the 2017 SEDA Bud Light league.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Chow Time Momshies are hoping to make their move in the Ladies Division and catch up with the Nipa Hut Exquisites in the Saipan Electronic Darts Association Bud Light league 2017.

There are only six weeks left in the matches of the Ladies Division, after today's schedule. The Exquisites take on the 6JMS Hot Mess, while the VFW Bull-It II collides with the Momshies tonight.

Last week's results put the Momshies nine wins behind the league-leading Exquisites' 163-92 slate. The Momshies now have a 154-101 record following an 11-4 win over the Hot Mess.

The quartet of Rose Requine, Sandra Tudela, Mitch Olita, and Nhitz Taracatac bested the Hot Mess' Piuline Helgen, Mary Anna Mendiola, Valerie Naputi, and Pua Palacios in the 15 games they played.

The Exquisites still hold the advantage after coasting to a 12-3 decision against the Bull-It that had the VFW-backed squad dropping to 89-166 in the four-team field. The Hot Mess could possible finish in third place (104-151).

In the Tuesday B League, the 9 Eleven Strikers remain on top with a 171-84 mark against the 154-101 card of the 6JMS Xecutionerz, followed by the Chow Time Lupeyt Boyz (145-110).

The Chow Time L.O.L (122-133), 6JMS Chamberos (114-141), VFW Warriors (59-196) complete the standings.

Thee Strikers increased their lead after beating the Lupeyt Boyz, 12-3. The L.O.L, meanwhile, completed a 14-1 crushing of the Warriors and the Xecutionerz waltzed to an 11-4 triumph against the Chamberos.

Results of other matches last week are as follows:

Masters

■ Nakayoshi 14, Calamity Fun 3

■ Mafia Masters 12, Pythons 5

A Division

■ Mafia 10, Drunken Warriors 7

■ Proofers 10, Ridin'Darrty 7

■ Gunners 9, Dragon Masters 8

■ Predators 9, The Mechanik's 8

Chichirika C

■ Knights 15, Flukers 0

■ Bulls Hitters 10, Bull-It 5

■ Scorpions 8, Hut Shot 7

Kingfisher C

■ Re-Darts 10, Ridin' Darrty 5

■ Parakeyu! 8, Sunsports 7

■ Dart Vaders 8, Hit'em Up 7

Fanihi B

■ Bandits 9, Shaka 6

■ D'Strikers 8, Mafia 7

■ Proofers 8, Crafters 7

Flame Tree B

■ Serial Killaz 11, Ridin'Darrty 4

■ Drillers 10, Dartaholics 5

■ Na'Gupu 8, Real Deal 7

■ S.O.L. 8, DNA Jump It 7

Brotherhood leads Belau winners

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Brotherhood survived the S. A. Masters' gallant stand, hammering out a 20-19 decision to remain undefeated in the 2017 Belau Masters Softball League yesterday at the Dandan Softball Field.

Brotherhood remained undefeated after nine games, while the S.A. Masters dropped to 4-5 behind second-running Peleliu (8-1), Momma Charo (6-3), and Karui (5-4).

The Masters, holding on to a 19-17 lead after 7 1/2 innings, only needed three outs in the bottom of the eighth in order to hand the Brotherhood their first loss.

Bill Camacho's two-run home run tied the game and Jack Diaz scored the walk-off run on a Julian Camacho single to complete Brotherhood's come-from-behind win.

Bill Camacho, who walked in his first plate appearance, homered twice going 3-of-4 with three runs and four RBIs, while Julian Camacho, 3-of-4, also homered and scored thrice with three RBIs.

Peleliu also had the same result against Sufa, 20-19, with Russell Kintaro and Mabel Ngirngemelas blasting a homer each.

Peleliu was also trailing Sufa (2-7) at 19-16 in the bottom of the eighth.

Dominic Hideo singled and reached home, together with Charles Kenty, who also singled, on back-to-back errors by Sufa to cut the deficit to 19-18.

Kintaro's solo homer tied the count and Ngirngemelas' solo blast had Peleliu celebrating with the victory.

Mommy Charu handed Karui its fourth loss in nine games following a 13-6 decision in the other game.

A five-run seventh and Leo Bobai's performance at the plate in the bottom of the inning sealed Mommy Charu's victory.

Bobai, after giving up a single, retired the next three batters he faced—a strikeout, infield fly, and a line drive—to end the game.

NMI

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of the federation, including working on recommendations on countries that should be welcomed to the FIFA family. This October, the FIFA Council will meet and Chung said NMIFA's application will be mentioned in their discussion.

Chung, who is also the president of the Korean Football Association and vice president of both EAFF and AFC, likened the CNMI's situation to Gilbratar, which along with Kosovo were granted FIFA full membership last year during the 66th FIFA Congress in Mexico City.

"Gilbratar is a small country with a small population, probably smaller than the CNMI, but they were admitted to FIFA because they have a strong program and have been consistently competing internationally," Chung said.

Gilbratar is under British rule and listed a population of only 32,000 when it was granted FIFA full membership last year. It became a member of the Union of European Football Associations in 2013, was denied FIFA membership in 2014, but won an appeal at the Court of Arbitration for Sports a few weeks before the 66th FIFA Congress.

Meanwhile, NMIFA president Jerry Tan is confident that the CNMI will be admitted to FIFA.

"For the last 12 years, we've been working hard in developing our program, which we started from scratch. We begin working with our grassroots (6-and-under) all the way up to our national youth and adult teams, both in the men's and women's divisions. For the last seven or eight years, we've received and attended seminars and workshops for coaches, players, and officials. Right now, we, through the help of our CNMI government, are working on building our first artificial turf. I believe these are crucial in the evaluation for our application to FIFA," Tan said.

"I am also proud to say that we are a very active federation, joining every EAFF and AFC tournaments that we've been invited to. I believe FIFA expect us to do these things, so I am confident we will get that membership," the NMIFA head added.

Full membership to FIFA is important to every country that works on the continued development of football in their area. FIFA members get assistance, not only in funding, but also in logistics and other resources from the world governing body.

Tan expressed his gratitude to Chung for visiting the island and assessing the situation of the sports here.

"We are honored to have him here and witness the development of football in the CNMI. NMIFA is very thankful to him for taking the time out from his very schedule to visit us. Mr. Chung is not only an active sports official, but also a successful businessman," Tan added.

5 CNMI

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to win her third straight singles crown in the division. She is in Group A with Vanuatu's Daisy Sipiti and Tonga's Kava Taufa. Lee's fellow U16 players, the unranked Malika Miyawaki and Grace Choi, will be playing in Group B and D.

In the boys U16, the Commonwealth has two seeded players in No. 3 Robbie Schorr and No. 4 Michael Ren. Schorr, who won last year's U14 title, is in Group C and will be battling Tahiti's Hirinaki Lo, Fiji's Shantanu Shail, and Guam's Camden Camacho for the two playoff berths. Ren, on the other hand, will challenge Samoa's Kristen Pavitt, Vanuatu's Marlin Hannam, and Tuvalu's Gavin Molotii for the pair of playoff seats in Group D. Other CNMI bets entered in the boys U16 singles are Ken Song (Group A) and Vincent Tudela (Group B).

Meanwhile, U12 players in the POJC will compete in team event.

The CNMI Boys (Daniel Kang and Anthony Gregoire) will play against the West Pacific Boys today, while Hye Jin Elliot will suit up for the North Pacific Girls that will also battle the West in the opener.

CAROL

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a tough 1-4, 4-1, 10-8 victory over Aussie pair Jayden Court and Joy Andreou before bowing to Lee and Hall.

The eventual champions were then paired against New Zealand's Ajeet Rai and Australia's Lisa Mays in the shortened finals, which was played on the same day and was only a race to 10 match. Lee and Hall went on to outclass their foes, 10-6, and win the division championship after only 17 minutes. Mays and Rai made it to the title match after two hard-fought victories. They first slipped past Reece Falck and Ivana Popovic, 4-2, 1-4, 12-10, and then edged Joshua Snowdon-Poole and Helena Spiridis in the semis, 4-1, 3-5, 10-7, to face Lee and Hall in the championship game.

Lee played in last Friday's mixed doubles after losing her quarterfinal games in both the singles and doubles events last Thursday.

Meanwhile, Isabel Heras settled for the runner-up honors in the single's consolation plate finals after bowing to fellow Pacific Oceania player Georjemah Row, 1-6, 3-6, last Friday.

CNMI Boys U18 National Team Training Camp

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team players exchange high-gives with Japan's Kyoto Kyoei Gakuen before the start of their match last week at the Changnyeong Sports Park in South Korea.

The Teen Ayuyus huddle for going to center court for the start of their match versus Japan's Kyoto Kyoei Gakuen.

Goalie Clayton Izuka answers a question from assistant coach Jersh Angeles.

The referee flips the coin to determine which team will have the first possession.

The Teen Ayuyus have a discussion about their game against New Yangdong FC.

A member of the CNMI Boys U18 National Team shares his dreams to his fellow players.

Assistant coach Jersh Angeles begins the discussion on each player's dreams.

Dai Podziewski is in charge of taking footage of their match against Japan's Kyoto Kyoei Gakuen.

Bryce Harper injured in Nationals' win over Giants

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Sports

Kisner survives wild finish to take PGA lead

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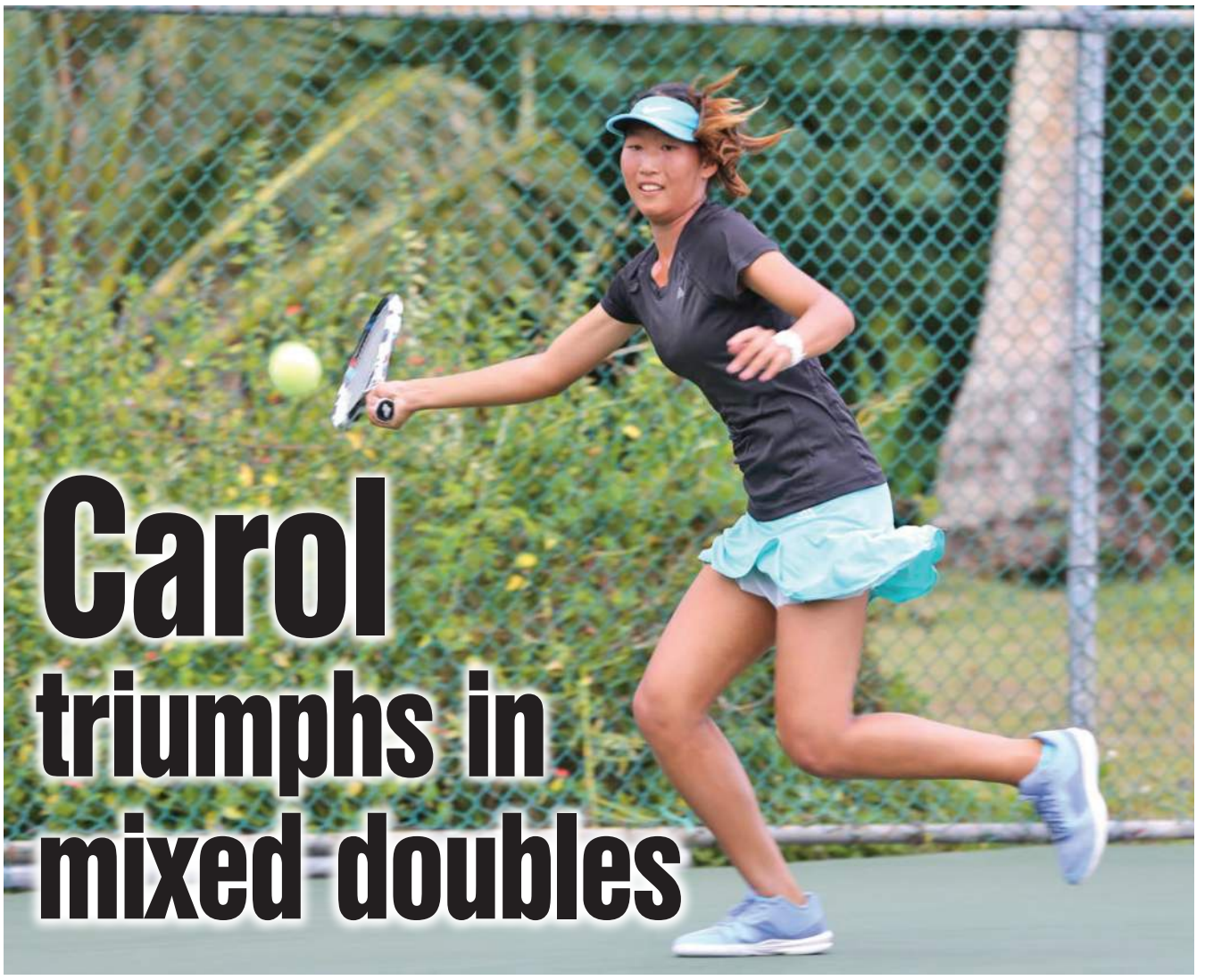

Carol triumphs in mixed doubles

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI's Carol Lee, seen here making a baseline return in last year's Chuck E. Cheese's ITF Junior Championships in Guam, topped the mixed doubles of the 2017 Oceania Closed Junior Championships held at the Regional Training Center in Lautoka, Fiji last week.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Carol Lee redeemed herself from a failed bid in the singles and doubles events of the 2017 Oceania Closed Junior Championships after topping the mixed singles competition last Friday at the Regional Training Center in Lautoka, Fiji.

Lee teamed up with New Zealand's Finley Hall and after drawing a bye in the first round, the duo topped Australia's Akay Cihan and Luciana Kunkel in the quarterfinals, 5-3, 4-2. Cihan and Luciana earned the right to face Lee and Hall in the Round of 8 following a 4-2, 4-0 triumph over Vanuatu's Marlin Hannam and their compatriot Chiara Di Tommaso.

The CNMI-New Zealand pair needed nearly an hour to eliminate the Aussie team and after a few hours of rest they then worked only for 34 minutes to oust Australia's Alexander Cmokrak and New Zealand's Emilia Price, 4-2, 4-0, to claim the finals berth at the lower half of the draw. Cmokrak and Price came from

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5 CNMI players seeded in POJC

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ji Min Woo goes for a backhand slice during a local tournament last year at the Pacific Islands Club. Woo is seeded first in the boys U14 singles event of the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Five members of the CNMI Junior Tennis Team are seeded in the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships, which will kick off today in Lautoka, Fiji.

Leading the list of the Commonwealth players seeded in their divisions is No. 1 Ji Min Woo. The 13-year-old is in Group A of the pool play in the boys U14 singles and will be up against Vanuatu's Warea Tigona, Tonga's Christopher Maasi, and Avikash Kumar in the elimination games.

The boys U14 singles is divided into four pools. Woo's teammate Seung Jin Paik is in Group B along with No. 2 and Vanuatu's Maui Leflon, Tahiti's Meheannu Larson, and Guam's Andrew Leng. Group C has the CNMI's Richard Steele, No. 3 and Tahiti's Mohearli Polin, the Federated States of Micronesia's Jerson Freddy, and New Caledonia's Terence Winter, while Group D has another Commonwealth player in Sean Lee, No. 4 and Fiji's Kalese Kofe, Tahiti's Manovai Elie, and Guam's Thomas Ysrael. Only the Top 2 players in each pool will advance to the playoffs after the round-robin elimination.

In the girls U14 singles, the CNMI will be represented by No. 3 Coume Kaga, her sister Conatsu, and Maria Gregoire. Coume is in Group D with Vanuatu's Desiree Signo, Tahiti's Kira Fong Loi, and the Solomon Islands' Marion Goatee, while Gregoire and Conatsu are in Group B and C, respectively.

In the girls U16, No. 1 seed Carol Lee is a heavy favorite

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'NMI qualified for FIFA membership'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A high-ranking Fédération Internationale de Football Association official believes the CNMI is qualified to gain full membership from the international governing body of the sport.

FIFA Council member Chung Mong-Gyu said he is aware of the football programs in place in the Commonwealth through the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, the CNMI's active involvement in both the East Asian Football Association and Asian Football Confederation tournaments and other activities, and the hard work that NMIFA officials are doing to continue the development of the sport here. These factors, according to him, make the CNMI qualified for full membership to FIFA and AFC. The CNMI is an associate member of AFC and has been seeking full membership to FIFA in the last six years.

"NMIFA is qualified," said Chung, who arrived on Saipan last Saturday for a short visit and to see the situation of the sport on the island.

"It's even more qualified than other small countries that wish to become FIFA members," added Chung, who is elected to the powerful FIFA Council just this year.

The FIFA Council is the main decision-making arm

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

FIFA Council member Chung Mong-Gyu of South Korea, right, poses for a photo with Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan during the former's visit to Saipan over the weekend.